

OPINION 6
LONG-LOST MAGICAL
ITEM ON OUR PLATE

WORLD 9
TRUMP ELECTION PROBE GRAND JURY
BELIEVES SOME WITNESSES LIED

MONEY 10
'BUDGET'S FOCUS ON CAPEX
TO RAISE PVT INVESTMENT'

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2023; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



RANDHAWA
IN TOP-10 AT
QATAR GOLF
11 SPORT

Shinde's party real Shiv Sena, says EC

Panel grants party symbol; Uddhav to move SC on Mon

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a setback for the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction, the Election Commission (EC) on Friday recognised the Eknath Shinde-led faction as the real Shiv Sena and ordered the Shinde camp to retain the official name and the "bow and arrow" symbol of the party amid an ongoing tussle between the Shinde and the Uddhav Thackeray factions over the symbol rights.

The EC has also announced that the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena will retain the interim party name Shiv Sena UBT and poll symbol flaming torch. As of now, the two factions were using separate party names and symbols allotted to them after the EC "froze" the Shiv Sena name and party symbol until the dispute was decided by it. This is for the first time that the Thackeray family has lost control of the party founded in 1966 by Balasaheb Thackeray on the principle of justice for the sons of the soil.



Balasaheb Thackeray workers garland party chief and Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde after the Election Commission of India recognised the party as real Shiv Sena, at his official residence in Mumbai on Friday

PTI photo

In a late night development, the Thackeray camp decided to move a special leave petition in the Supreme Court on Monday challenging the EC's order.

The Uddhav and the Shinde factions have been at loggerheads over the party name and symbol since June 2022, when Shinde walked out of the Maha Vikas Aghadi Government with 40 MLAs in

a high-voltage revolt.

The order was passed by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel on a plea by the Shinde faction seeking decision on which is the real Shiv Sena — the Shinde camp or the Thackeray camp.

"The party name 'Shiv Sena' and the party symbol 'bow and arrow' will be

retained by the petitioner faction," the Commission said in its order. "The name of 'Balasaheb Thackeray Shiv Sena' and symbol of 'Two Swords and Shield', which was allotted to the petitioner by way of the interim order dated October 11, 22 in this dispute case will henceforth be frozen with immediate effect and will not be used," reads the order.

Continued on Page 2

Aldermen can't vote to elect MCD mayor: SC

Announce poll date in 24 hrs, orders court

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday ended the political tussle over the voting rights of the 10 members nominated by Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena to Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) by ruling that nominated members cannot vote to elect a mayor.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwalla also ordered that the date for the much-delayed mayoral polls be announced within 24 hours.

The SC directed that the election of the Delhi mayor shall be conducted at the first MCD meet for the purpose and once elected, the mayor shall preside over the deputy Mayor's election.

The top court was hearing a plea moved by the AAP mayoral candidate, Shelly Oberoi, seeking an early conduct of the elections.

The bench rejected the submission of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Lieutenant Governor, and Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, appearing for the municipal body, that alder-



men (members nominated by the LG to MCD) can vote in the polls.

"The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is an important global body and it is desirable that the election to the post of mayor is held at the earliest. As a national capital it does not look good if the mayoral polls are held up," the bench observed orally.

Referring to Article 243R of the Constitution, it said the Constitution has imposed a restriction in terms of which nominated members do not have the right to vote.

"We have heard the counsel for the parties. We are unable to accept the submission on behalf of the municipal corporation. The Constitution has imposed a restriction in terms of which nominated members who are brought in on account of their special knowledge in municipal administration could not have right to vote. The prohibition on nominated members in the

exercise of the right to vote applies on the first meeting."

"The notice for the election of mayor and the first meeting of the MCD shall be issued within 24 hours and the notice shall fix the date at which the elections of mayor, deputy mayor and standing committee members shall be held," it said.

The Delhi unit of BJP welcomed the court order, saying it always wanted a mayor to be elected as soon as possible.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal termed the court order a "victory of democracy" and claimed that it has proved how the Lt Governor and the BJP were passing "illegal and unconstitutional orders".

Both the BJP and the AAP have accused each other of preventing the mayoral polls with the bone of contention being the appointment of aldermen and their voting rights as a result of which the MCD could not elect a mayor on three previous occasions.

The AAP, which has a majority in the unified MCD with 134 out of 250 elected members ending the BJP's 15-year rule in the civic body, has alleged that the saffron party is trying to steal its mandate by giving voting rights to the nominated members. The BJP won 104 wards to finish second. Delhi's three civic bodies were unified in May last year, ten years after it was trifurcated in 2012.

CAPSULE

TWO TERROR GROUPS GHAZNAVI, KTF BANNED

New Delhi: The Centre on Friday banned two groups and declared an individual a terrorist for their subversive and anti-India activities. The two groups are the Jammu & Kashmir Ghaznavi Force, which has been formed with cadres from terrorist organisations such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed; and the Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF), which aims to revive terrorism in Punjab. The JGFF has been involved in infiltration bids, narcotics and weapon smuggling, terror attacks in the UT and issuing threats to security forces. The KTF came into existence in 2011 as an offshoot of the Babbar Khalsa International.

TERRORISTS ATTACK TOP COP'S OFFICE IN PAK

Karachi: Unidentified heavily-armed militants on Friday stormed the Karachi Police chief's office in Pakistan's most populous city, leading to heavy firing between paramilitary rangers, police and the attackers, the latest brazen assault on security forces amid an uptick in terror attacks across the country. Firing is going on, the statement said.

NGT IMPOSES ₹2,232 FINE ON DELHI GOVT

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Delhi Government to pay ₹2,232 crore as environmental compensation for improper management of solid and liquid waste. A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice AK Goel said there were gaps in the management of solid and liquid waste in the national capital.

Crucial evidence found at BBC offices during I-T survey: CBDT

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on Friday said the survey operation conducted by the Income Tax department at the offices of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in Delhi and Mumbai has unearthed crucial evidence by way of statement of employees, digital proof and documents.

The CBDT said income and profits shown by various group entities of BBC are not commensurate with scale of operations in India. Several discrepancies and inconsistencies with regard to transfer pricing documentation have also been found during the survey operation, the CBDT said in a statement.

A survey action under section 133A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 was carried out on the business premises of group entities of a prominent international media company (BBC) at Delhi and Mumbai, the CBDT said.

The survey operation that began on Tuesday concluded



on Thursday clocking 60 hours of continuous action.

The group is engaged in the business of development of content in English, Hindi and various other Indian languages; advertisement sales and market support services among others.

"The survey revealed that despite substantial consumption of content in various Indian languages (apart from English), the income/profits shown by various group enti-

ties is not commensurate with the scale of operations in India," it said.

During the course of the survey, the department gathered several pieces of evidence pertaining to the operation of the organisation which "indicate that tax has not been paid on certain remittances which have not been disclosed as income in India by the foreign entities of the group".

Continued on P2

UK MP raps BBC, terms Modi docu propaganda piece

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid raging controversy over a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a British MP has slammed the broadcaster and termed the film as "a propaganda video" and "a disgraceful piece of shoddy journalism." He also said the BBC is not an arm of the British Government and it regards India as a strong friend and a strong ally.

Airing these views, British MP Bob Blackman also talked about the issue "around the review of the BBC tax affairs" in the context of Income Tax department's survey at its offices in India and said "this is nothing new and has been going on for quite sometime".

He said in an interview with ANI, there have been discussions between the Income Tax authorities in India and the BBC and the broad-



caster has to follow the relevant rules and regulations.

Blackman said the documentary should never have been released and that it did not look at the "all-important fact" that India's Supreme Court investigated the claims against Narendra Modi in connection with the 2002 riots and found that there is not a shred of evidence to support them.

Blackman, a member of the ruling Conservative and MP for Harrow East, said as Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2002, Narendra Modi had done his best to try and appeal for calm during the riots.

Continued on P2

Smriti blasts Soros for 'anti-India rants, funding'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lashing-out at the American billionaire-investor George Soros for his speech at the Munich Security Conference, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani on Friday accused him of conspiring to "break Indian democracy" and sought all parties to counter "anti-India rants" of Soros with "one voice".

Describing the investor an "economic war criminal", the Minister said. "The design to weaken India will be met with the might of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," she said here at a Press conference.

Seeking all parties and organisations to speak in one voice against the "conspirators" like Soros, Irani said those who back him "stand exposed".

She said the American businessman whose worldwide investment "needs to be investigated" has committed one billion dollars to "damage India". "It is evident from his statements that he has pronounced funding over one billion dollars to target leaders like



Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani speaks during a press conference in New Delhi on Friday

PTI

Modi. This is significant," the Minister said. The BJP's response came after Soros, 92, at the Munich Security Conference on Thursday said Prime Minister Modi would be weakened by the stock woes of business tycoon Gautam Adani and alleged that Adani, "opening the door" to a demo-

cratic revival in the country.

He accused Modi of keeping "silence" on the Adani row.

Irani claimed though Soros is aiming to malign Modi's image but it is "India which is under attack" as it has risen high under the leadership of Modi, she said.

Continued on Page 2

US slams China for bid to change LAC, calls Arunachal part of India

PNS/AGENCIES ■
NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

Even as China has always claimed Arunachal Pradesh as part of its territory, the US has said the State is an integral part of India and condemned Beijing's use of force to try to change status quo at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

This assertion in a bipartisan resolution in the US Senate late on Thursday came weeks after China tried to forcibly change the status quo at the LAC in Arunachal Pradesh in December last year. It led to exchange of blows between the Indian and Chinese troops. Moreover, tension still prevails at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh as China tried to trans-

gress there in May 2020.

The resolution was introduced in the US Senate on Thursday to recognise Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India, pushing back against Beijing's military aggression to change the status quo along the LAC.

The resolution condemns additional Chinese provocations, including China's use of military force to change the status quo along the LAC, construction of villages in contested areas, publication of maps with Mandarin-language names for cities and features in the Indian State of Arunachal Pradesh, and expansion of Beijing's territorial claims in Bhutan.

Continued on P2

Partition museum in Capital soon

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi will get its first museum dedicated to the Partition of India in 1947 after the Delhi Government decided to convert the Mughal-era Dara Shikoh Library building into a 1947 Partition Museum. The museum would be an extension of Amritsar museum and this would be the second such museum in India to showcase the Partition of 1947.

The museum will have seven galleries to explain the events leading up to the Partition and Independence, the migration, refugees, rebuilding homes, in the mind of the artist, rebuilding relationships and a gallery of hope and courage.

It will also feature a virtual reality experience, donated belongings of partition witnesses, and a souvenir shop. The Dara Shikoh Library build-

ing is located at Mori Gate in Old Delhi. Built in 1643, the building currently stands in the Ambedkar University Delhi campus.

It was named after Shah Jahan's eldest son, Dara Shikoh. The library, built in 1643, will also serve as a cultural hub with exhibitions on different aspects of the city and its history. The museum is due to be opened soon.

The museum would offer an immersive virtual reality experience, which would allow visitors to explore partition memories from the people.

Witnessing the same rail coaches, ancient havelis, and replicas of refugee camps would be exciting and nostalgic for many. Letters, certificates, clothes, utensils, and photographs belonging to individuals who migrated across the border during the 1947 India-Pakistan Partition —



these are some of the exhibits that will be on display as Delhi's first Partition Museum.

The museum will also showcase artifacts like a refugee card, an Independence-era electricity meter from Lahore, handmade items given as gifts in 1942, a sewing machine, land deed for properties from

Jhang, Punjab, dating back 1918.

The museum will also feature stories of individuals who visited their homes in Pakistan after the Partition and outline their experiences. It will also focus on stories beyond the border.

Deputy Chief Minister

Manish Sisodia visited the upcoming museum on Friday and inspected the site's progress. During his visit, he interacted with curators who provided him with a rundown of the work that had been completed on the project. He said historical buildings across Delhi symbolise the country's evolution over a period of time, adding that the Delhi Government has prioritised restoring these landmarks to help generations understand the country better.

Sisodia also noted that there could not have been a better place than the Dara Shikoh Library building to house the Partition Museum. Major parts of the national Capital, including areas like Lajpat Nagar, CR Park, and Punjabi Bagh, were established after the Partition, he added.

The museum's opening will also coincide with the 76th

anniversary of Indian independence.

Under the British rule, the Dara Shikoh Library served as a British Residency for David Ochterlony, Archibald Seton and Charles Metcalf. In the 20th century, the property was also used as a school, polytechnic and lastly the offices of Delhi State Archaeology Department. The Arts and Cultural Heritage Trust (TACHT), which set up a Partition Museum in Amritsar, has adopted the heritage building inside the Ambedkar University campus as a part of the Adopt a Heritage initiative. Conservation work at DSLB was undertaken by the Delhi Government's department of art, culture and language. Besides hosting exhibitions and galleries, the museum has been envisioned as a cultural hub that will host multiple events.

Security beefed up outside Yogi home after bomb scare

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A bomb scare outside 5, Kalidas Marg, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's residence in Lucknow, sent the security apparatus scrambling on Friday. A bomb disposal squad reached the Chief Minister's residence as soon as the alert was issued. Security was also beefed up soon after the police received the information that a bomb was planted near the Chief Minister's residence in Lucknow.

Lucknow DCP (Central) said that they received information that a bomb was planted at the residence of the UP Chief Minister.

He said immediately, the police rushed to the spot and launched a combing operation in the area. A senior police officer confirmed it was just a hoax call and no bomb was found after the entire area was fully checked. The State police are trying to identify the unknown caller. It may be recalled that Yogi Adityanath had earlier received death threats from an



unknown Twitter user, who also threatened to blow up the chief minister's cavalcade with a bomb and claimed that explosives had been planted in several areas. The Twitter user 'Done' (@ladydone3) had said that bombs had been planted to blow up the Vidhan Sabha in Lucknow, railway and bus stations. The next tweet said that one Sulaiman Bhai had planted a bomb in Gorakhnath Math.

After an hour, a tweet from the same handle warned about a blast at Meerut CDA Army Cantonment, adding that one Furqan Bhai had planted bombs at 10 places in Meerut.

The account holder also tagged the Hapur police and the UP Police in the tweets, challenging them to stop him

if they could. The user also tagged actor and BJP Member of Parliament from Gorakhpur Ravi Kishan, along with Yogi Adityanath, saying that they both would be killed by a human bomb before Monday morning. The UP police have taken the required action in the matter, and the Twitter account has been suspended. As per the information available, the Twitter handle was created in February 2022 only with one follower. The user mentioned that a 'Mujahid' from Pakistan would destroy everything.

Gorakhpur's Senior Superintendent of Police Vipin Tada said a massive combing drive was launched at Gorakhnath temple and other places after the tweet, but no explosive or detonator was found. "It seems that it was a prank," the SSP said.

The tweet came days after All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) MP Asaduddin Owaisi's convoy was attacked in Meerut while he was returning from a pre-poll event in Uttar Pradesh to Delhi.

RPG attack on Punjab Police: Terrorist Landa's man held in Mohali

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

An associate of Canada-based terrorist Lakhbir Singh Landa was arrested in connection with the Mohali RPG attack case, police said on Friday. A rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) was fired at the Punjab Police's Intelligence headquarters located in Mohali on May 9 last year.

Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said Gupinder alias Pindu was allegedly involved in the RPG attack in Mohali and he is the 11th accused arrested so far in the Mohali RPG attack case.

Pindu, a resident of Bhura Kona village in Khemkaran, is the close associate of Canada-based terrorist Lakhbir Singh alias Landa and was in constant touch with accused Nishan Singh and Charhat Singh during the attack, he said.

Yadav said on April 25 last year, accused Charhat Singh, Nishan Singh and Baljinder Rambo had brought consignment of RPG and assault rifle from Tarn Taran to Amritsar, and kept at Pindu's house near Alpha Hall in Amritsar. SR

5 men held for extorting money from a businessman

New Delhi: Five men have been arrested for allegedly extorting money from a businessman on the pretext of blocking the victim's obscene video on social media. The accused have been identified as Khurshid Khan (31), Raman (42), Kaluram (33), Vikram Jatav (24), all residents of Rajasthan, and Murari (42), a resident of Uttar Pradesh.

Police said that a businessman registered a complaint alleging that he received a phone call from a person posing as Inspector Vikram Rathore from Delhi Police's Crime Branch and extorted money on the pretext of blocking the complainant's obscene video on social media.

The complainant said that earlier, he had received a video call from a girl on WhatsApp, who started an obscene video chat with him following which extortion began, a senior police officer said. Later, the accused persons called complainant and said that girl who called him has committed suicide in Rajasthan. SR

UGC writes to Guvs, CMs to encourage teaching, learning of mother tongue

New Delhi: The University Grants Commission (UGC) has written to all Governors and Chief Ministers requesting them to encourage teaching and learning, and production of textbooks in mother tongue in their Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

"Teaching through Indian languages is a key area of focus of the National Education Policy 2020. The policy emphasises the importance of teaching and teaching materials in the mother tongue.

It is heartening to note that textbooks in the mother tongue and local languages are promoted and used by HEIs in our country," said UGC Chairman M Jagadesh Kumar.

"Teaching is also being imparted in the mother tongue and local language in many college and university undergraduate programmes in social sciences, commerce, science.

This has benefited students from all strata of our society, particularly the disadvantaged sections and those residing in rural and remote areas," he added. PNS

US slams China...

From Page 1

The resolution says China claims Arunachal Pradesh as its own territory, which it calls "South Tibet", and has invoked these claims as part of its increasingly aggressive and expansionist policies.

"The United States recognises the State of Arunachal Pradesh not as a disputed territory but as an integral part of the Republic of India, and this recognition is not qualified in any way," says the bipartisan resolution introduced by Senator Jeff Merkley, a Democrat, and Bill Hagerty, a Republican. Senator John Cornyn, Co-Chair of the India Caucus, has co-sponsored the resolution. Pushing back against Chinese claims that Arunachal Pradesh is its territory, which is part of Beijing's increasingly aggressive and expansionist policies, the Senate resolution reaffirms that the US recognises the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.

The line that was agreed to by Britain and Tibet as part of the 1914 Simla Accord is named after Sir Henry McMahon, foreign secretary of the British-run Government of India and chief negotiator of settling disputes with China.

On December 9, The Indian and Chinese troops were engaged in a fresh clash in the Yangtse area of Arunachal Pradesh's Tawang sector, in the first such major flare-up after the deadly hand-to-hand combat in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between two sides in decades.

"America's values supporting freedom and a rules-based order must be at the centre of all of our actions and relationships around the world — especially as the PRC (People's Republic of China) government pushes an alternative vision," said Merkley, who serves as the Co-Chair of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China.

"This resolution makes clear that US views Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh as part of Republic of India — not People's Republic of China — and commits US to deepen support and assistance to region, alongside like-minded international partners and donors," Merkley said. At a time when China continues to pose grave and gathering threats to Free and Open Indo-Pacific, it is critical for US to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our strategic partners in the region — especially India, said Senator Hagerty after introduction of resolution.

ARCI researchers develop nanocomposite coating to prevent surgical infections

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A unique non-toxic nanocomposite coating named 'ATL' to prevent post-surgical infections has been developed by researchers from the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), under the Department of Science and Technology of the Union Science and Technology Ministry.

The developed coating not only inhibits biofilm formation by restricting bacterial and water adhesion but also kills attached bacteria. The coating has been developed by combining water repellence and biocidal property (combinatorial approach) that exhibits both hydrophobic and biocidal behaviour, a statement from the Ministry said.

ATL was deposited on different surgical sutures made of silk, nylon, and polylactin 910 (vicryl) in addition to sur-



gical instrument grade stainless steel 420 coupons and tested for biofilm inhibition against American Type Culture Collection (ATCC) and clinical isolate strains of proven biofilm-forming bacteria such as Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Acinetobacter baumannii, Staphylococcus aureus and Escherichia coli at Translational Health Science Technology Institute (THSTI) and L.V. Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), respectively.

The nanocomposite coating can inhibit biofilm formation and also kill attached bacteria, thereby helping tackle growing postoperative infections, a common occurrence due to antibiotic resistance in bacteria.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Known to all that my client SH. PANKAJ KUMAR purchasing property i.e. Plot No-64 Area 75 Sq Yards Kharsa No-28/15/2, 16/1, 25/2 Situated At Gonchhi Ballabgarh Faridabad Haryana from SH. LOK NATH SINGH and mortgaging the same with Shriram Housing Finance Ltd. And SH. LOK NATH SINGH not having Originals 1. Sale deed No. 9640, dt. 28.11.1983. 2. Sale deed No. 11376, dt. 12.11.1984. 3. GPA, ATS Will in favour of Smt. Tapeswari Devi, 4. Sale deed No. 7208, dt. 14.10.1986 with related all intial and Back Chain, it is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 8 days of this publication.
AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760, Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
Mr.- 9899013918

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, गिलाई
क्र०/जोन-3/गोपनी/2023/1176/466 गिलाई, दिनांक/14/02/23

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, गिलाई
Main Portal :- <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
Sub Portal :- <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

लोक कर्म विभाग द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ई-टेंडर आवेदनिका की गई है। जिसका विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

क्र०	कार्य का नाम	सिस्टम टेंडर नं०	अनुमानित निम्नित लागत (लाख में)	अमानत राशि	श्रेणी	ई-टेंडर आवेदनिका दिनांक
1.	जोन 03 क्षेत्रीय नगर निकाय से (जोन-04 की तरफ) डायरीयुक्त मार्ग का संधारण कार्य।	124732	100.00	75,00,000/-	द से प्रारंभ श्रेणी	14.02.2023 से 09.03.2023 तक

नोट :-
1. घरेलू राशि **offline** जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 14.02.2023 शाम 5.30 बजे तक कार्यालय अतिथि/ जूनियर सहायक नगर पालिक निगम गिलाई के पक्ष में निवेदन होगा।
2. निविदा में मांग लेने हेतु उकेदारों को ई-प्रायुक्तेट वेबसाइट <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में अनुपस्थित सेमी में संमिलित होना अनिवार्य है। अधिक जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट पर देखें।
हस्ता/—
जोन आयुक्त

PD(90271)A

Twitter closes offices in Delhi, Mumbai; staff asked to WFH

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amid layoffs and a severe cost-cutting, Twitter has closed offices in Delhi and Mumbai and asked staff to work from home (WFH), according to sources. The micro-blogging platform's Bengaluru office that largely has engineering staff remains operational, the sources said.

The Delhi and Mumbai offices shuttered a few weeks ago, with remaining staff now doing WFH, sources privy to the matter said.

However, the number of employees affected by the move could not be immediately ascertained. A mail sent to Twitter on the issue, did not elicit a response.

The closure of the two offices in key locations in India comes as the platform has initiated massive cost cutting drive globally, after billionaire Elon Musk's USD 44 billion takeover of Twitter, last year.

The firm downsized from more than 7,000 people to 2,300 active employees across the globe — the mass-layoffs began with firing of CEO Parag Agrawal as well as the CFO and many other high ranking leaders last year. In the retrenchment that followed, Twitter fired the majority of its over 200 employees in India as well. Only a handful were spared as layoffs culled roles across engineering, sales and marketing, and communications teams.

UK MP raps BBC, terms Modi docu...

From Page 1

Blackman accused the BBC documentary of casting aspersions and said it is extremely regrettable because it would seem as if there was some sort of agenda of BBC to disrupt UK-India relations. "I think that's a great shame."

Noting that the British Government regards India as a strong friend, and a strongly ally and the two countries were negotiating a trade deal, he said anything that disrupts the process is extremely regrettable.

The British MP said the Indian Government has done a remarkable job under Modi of transforming the country's economy and it is on track to become the leading economy in the world. Blackman said the BBC video on Modi was "full of innuendos" and it was produced by an external organisation and overseen by the British broadcaster.

"The so-called documentary which is more of a propaganda video, if you like in a two-part series... (was) disgraceful piece of shoddy journalism with an attack on Narendra Modi, both in his time as Chief Minister of Gujarat and then his time as Prime Minister... (was) completely full of innuendos," the British MP said.

"It should never have been broadcast by the BBC because the BBC has a worldwide reputation. People think, oh my goodness, this must be true. But, it was produced by an external organisation, overseen by the BBC... (documentary) is far from the truth... it actually did not look in detail into the causes for the

Gujarat riots 20 years ago and it certainly didn't look at the important fact that the Supreme Court thoroughly investigated all the claims against Narendra Modi and found that not a shred of evidence to support them," he added.

The UK MP said as Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2002, Modi had looked to additional police resources, not only within Gujarat but beyond and eventually had called in the army to help quell the riots.

"They showed a film of him making appeals for calm and encouraging people to not to riot... (they) put a whole series of different montages together with different people... I don't know people involved but it was clear they had an axe to grind against Modi," Blackman said. The Central Government had last month issued directions for blocking YouTube videos and Twitter posts sharing links to the controversial BBC documentary 'India: The Modi Question'.

The Ministry of External Affairs had termed it a "propaganda piece", saying it reflected a "colonial mindset". Referring to the income tax department survey, Blackman said the BBC has to ensure "they are caught with the rules and regulations". "Obviously, this is a survey where the income tax authorities have looked to gather the evidence to establish if the BBC is doing anything wrong, I would say quite openly, this is the BBC's job and operating within India, is to make sure they are caught with the rules and regulations, and I am sure it will be cleared up very quickly, but you know

that's upto the tax authorities so... (for) BBC to make sure they are caught up with the rules that operate here," he said.

The British ruling party MP said some sections were seeing the action as an attack on the media which according to the MP was not an accurate assessment.

"It's a review, it is a survey... the moment there haven't been suggestions of charges or anything like that... let the authorities operate, let the BBC act as they have done in an open and transparent way, providing access to all the records and all the information and let the tax authorities come to their conclusion. I trust that we clear up very quickly because it is for the benefit of the tax authorities and for the BBC."

Asked if the BBC documentary could in some way be reflective of the view of the British government, Blackman dismissed any such suggestion and said the BBC is not an arm of the British Government. He said the British Government regards India as a strong friend and a strong ally. "Let's be very clear, the BBC is not an arm of the British government. In fact, the BBC is frequently critical of the British government and, actually to be fair, critical of all the British government that has been that their job, their job is to ask questions, to look for evidence. But the key here is you can ask questions but when there is evidence to the contrary and it's quite clearly not the case, then you shouldn't be casting aspersions. I think that is the difference here, which I think it is extremely regrettable because it would seem as if there was

some sort of agenda of the BBC to disrupt UK-India relations," said Blackman. Blackman said he had asked the British Government of its policy and was told that the BBC is an independent organisation they must do whatever they choose to do but it is not the policy of the British Government.

"The British Government regards India as a strong friend and a strong ally. We signed an agreement a year ago, now an agreement on security, defence and other matters and that demonstrates the goodwill between our countries. We are two countries with a shared past and tremendous future ahead of us and we are at the moment negotiating what could be an incredible free trade deal which would benefit India and the United Kingdom. So, anything that disrupts that is extremely regrettable, particularly when it's with our foundation," added Blackman. He expressed hope that the documentary episode will not impact relations between India and UK.

Answering a query, he said one thing he agreed with in "the propaganda video" is the final comments which said Modi and the BJP Government will probably be re-elected next time and the time after. "So they deserve it because the Indian Government have done a remarkable job under the Modi of transforming the economy in India, leading India to become the fifth biggest economy now in the world, on track to become the leading economy in the world, by the way it is going and the most populous country in the world.

Crucial evidence...

From Page 1

The survey operations also revealed that "services of seconded employees have been utilised for which reimbursement has been made by the Indian entity to the foreign entity concerned".

Such remittance was also liable to be subject to withholding tax which has not been done, it said. Further, the survey has also thrown up several discrepancies and inconsistencies with regard to Transfer Pricing documentation.

"Such discrepancies relate to level of relevant Function, Asset and Risk (FAR) analysis, incorrect use of comparables which are applicable to determine the correct Arms Length Price (ALP) and inadequate revenue apportionment, among others," it further said.

The survey operation has resulted in unearthing of crucial evidence like statements of employees, digital evidence and documents which will be further examined in due course, it said.

Statements of only those employees were recorded whose role was crucial including those connected to, primarily, finance, content development and other production related functions, it said.

"Even though the department exercised due care to record statements of only key personnel, it was observed that dilatory tactics were employed including in the context of producing documents/agreements sought," the board said, adding, despite such stance of the group, the survey operation was conducted in a manner so as to facilitate continued regular media/channel activity.

Shinde's party...

From Page 1

The commission said it applied the principles of the "Test of party Constitution" and the "Test of Majority" while finalising the order. In a 78-page order, the commission observed that the current constitution of the Shiv Sena is undemocratic. "It has been mutilated to undemocratically appoint people from a coterie as office bearers without any election at all. Such party structures fail to inspire confidence," it said.

In a landmark decision with far-reaching implications on political parties and their conduct, the EC advised all political parties to reflect democratic ethos and principles of inner party democracy and regularly disclose on their respective websites aspects of their inner party functioning, such as organisational details, holding of elections, the copy of Constitution and list of office bearers.

The Commission observed that the party had been made into a fiefdom by undemocratic norms of the original Constitution of Shiv Sena. The Commission said MLAs backing Eknath Shinde got nearly 76 per cent of votes polled in favour of the 55 winning Shiv

Sena candidates in the 2019 Maharashtra Assembly polls. The Uddhav Thackeray faction's MLAs got 23.5 per cent of votes polled in favour of the winning Shiv Sena candidates, the three-member Commission said in a unanimous order.

The Constitution of Shiv Sena amended in 2018 is not given to EC. Amendments had undone the act of introducing democratic norms in the Party Constitution of 1999, brought by the Late Balasaheb Thackeray at the insistence of the Commission," the EC added.

The Commission said the respondent (Thackeray faction) had relied heavily on the 2018 Constitution of the party to stake claim to the poll symbol and the organisation but the party had not informed the Commission about the amendment to the Constitution.

"The amended Constitution of 2018 is not on record of the Commission," the order said, and added that it found that the party Constitution, on which the Thackeray faction was placing strong reliance, to be "undemocratic".

"To put it in a nutshell, the party Constitution envisages

the President nominating the Electoral College that is to elect him. This goes against the spirit of democracy and negates the very purpose for which the entire exercise was carried out," the Commission said. The EC observed that the undemocratic norms of the original Constitution of Shiv Sena, which was not accepted by the Commission in 1999 have been brought back in a surreptitious manner further making the party akin to a fiefdom.

"The constitution of political parties ought to provide for free, fair and transparent elections to the posts of office bearers and a further free and fair procedure for the resolution of internal disputes. These procedures ought to be difficult to amend and should be amendable only after ensuring larger support of the organisational members for the same.

The very survival and sustenance of the party depends on this. Yet, the party Constitutions are often amended to allow for its self-destruction by obliterating the internal democratic mechanisms," the EC said. "In the absence of such democratic internal structures, internal disputes are bound to create rifts and factions leading to determination of the question by the Election Commission under the Symbols Order," it said.

Irani raps US billionaire Soros for 'anti-India...

From Page 1

"Those who support Soros need to know that democracy has prevailed in India and continues to do so and as a party worker of the BJP, I can say that these designs to weaken Indian democracy will be met by the might of India under Modi", she said.

The Minister said, "George Soros, who hedges bets against many countries, has now made known his ill intentions in the democratic processes of India."

Irani went on further in condemning the billionaire saying "the man who broke the bank of England, a man who is designated as an economic war criminal has now pronounced his desire to break the Indian democracy.

Soros, who hedges bets against many countries has now declared his ill intentions in the democratic processes of India," said Irani adding "India has defeated imperialist designs in the past and will do the same in the future."

Kejriwal terms SC order on mayor poll ‘victory of democracy’

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday termed the Supreme Court's order on the Mayor's election a "victory of democracy" and demanded Lieutenant-Governor (LG) VK Saxena's resignation. Other AAP leaders, too, demanded Saxena's resignation after the top court's decision.

Kejriwal said that the SC verdict has proved how the LG and the BJP were passing "illegal and unconstitutional orders".

"I thank the Supreme Court; Delhi will now get a Mayor after two-and-a-half months," Kejriwal said.

The Supreme Court on Friday said Aldermen (nominated members) of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) cannot vote in

the mayoral election. The order came on a plea moved by the ruling AAP mayoral candidate, Shelly Oberoi, seeking an early conduct of the election. "SC order is a victory of democracy. Many thanks to SC. Delhi will now get a mayor after two-and-a-half months. It has been proved how the LG and the BJP together were passing illegal and unconstitutional orders in Delhi," Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi.

The AAP had emerged as a clear winner in the December four polls, bagging 134 wards and ending the BJP's 15-year rule in the civic body. The BJP won 104 wards to finish second, while the Congress won nine seats in the 250-member municipal House.

After the Supreme Court ruled that nominated members of the MCD cannot vote in the

mayoral election, the AAP said it was a victory for it and that people's faith in the apex court has grown. Addressing a press conference, AAP leader Durgesh Pathak said, "We are thankful to SC. The apex court order on Delhi mayoral poll is a tight slap on the face of BJP."

"Delhi LG has no moral right to stay on his post, he must resign immediately. The Court's directive is a tight slap on the face of BJP & LG. Both BJP and LG had been illegally controlling MCD in last 2.5 months," he added.

"It is a victory for AAP. Delhi will get mayor and deputy mayor two-and-a-half months after the MCD polls. BJP has got a clear direction to sit in the Opposition and the mayor will be of AAP as people have voted for the Aam Aadmi Party," he added.

"Supreme Court has proven that LG Vinai Saxena is a compulsive liar; he must resign immediately. The Supreme Court has exposed the syndicate of BJP & LG, all their frauds and lies have been exposed today," AAP spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said.

"It is a written fact that nominated councillors do not have the right to vote, yet BJP tried to brazenly get them to vote. LG and BJP hatched conspiracies in MCD to prevent AAP from forming government," he said.

According to the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act, 1957, the mayor and the deputy mayor are to be elected in the very first session of the House after the civic polls. However, it's been over two months since the municipal

elections were held and Delhi is yet to get a mayor.

On February 6, the MCD House meeting could not elect a mayor for the third time in a row in a month, following ruckus over the decision to allow aldermen to vote in the mayoral poll, even as the AAP had alleged a "planned conspiracy" by the BJP to stall the process, saying it would move the SC to seek a "court-monitored" election. The petitioner had moved the apex court on February 7.

The Municipal House has witnessed unprecedented developments since January 6 when it had convened for the first time after the high-stakes civic polls and adjourned following acrimonious exchanges between members of the BJP and the AAP. The second municipal House held on



January 24, was briefly adjourned after the oath-taking ceremony, and was later adjourned till next date by the presiding officer.

After the third session too was adjourned by the pro-tem presiding officer and BJP councillor Sharma, the issue had snowballed into a face-off between the AAP and the BJP,

Wanted mayor to be elected as soon as possible: BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi BJP on Friday welcomed the Supreme Court order on mayoral poll, saying it always wanted a Mayor to be elected as soon as possible.

The Delhi BJP blamed the Aam Aadmi Party for the delay and alleged that they moved the SC with an intention to postpone the poll. "We welcome the Supreme Court's decision. We have always wanted the elections to be held as soon as possible. It is the AAP which did not let elections take place in the last three sittings of the MCD House," Delhi BJP leader Harish Khurana said.

NGT orders Govt to pay ₹2K cr for improper solid-liquid waste mgmt

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Delhi Government to pay Rs 2,232 crore as environmental compensation for improper management of solid and liquid waste.

A Bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice AK Goel said there were gaps in the management of solid and liquid waste in Delhi.

"On the pattern of compensation awarded in respect of other States (at the rate of Rs 2 crore per million litres per day (MLD) of untreated sewage and Rs 300 per tonne of untreated legacy waste), compensation of Rs 3,132 crore is liable to be levied on the Delhi Government — Rs 990 crore for solid waste and Rs 2,142 crore for solid waste," the Bench, also comprising judicial members Justice Sudhir Agarwal and Justice Arun

Kumar Tyagi along with expert members A Senthil Vel and Afroz Ahmad, said.

Deducting the compensation for solid waste already levied (Rs 900 crore), the remaining amount of Rs 2,232 crore has to be paid by the city Government on the "polluter pays" principle, the Bench said. The amount has to be used for tackling the 'emergent situation prevailing in Delhi, posing danger to the safety of the citizens,' and for remedying the continuing damage to the environment, the Bench added.

"This payment will be the responsibility of the Chief Secretary, Delhi and the payment be made within one month and credited to a separate ring-fenced account," it said.

After the NGT order, the BJP and the Congress demanded that the penalty amount should be recovered from the AAP and not from

the tax payers, as it was due to the incompetence and inaction of CM Kejriwal that the Yamuna water has become dangerously toxic.

BJP leaders Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, who is leader of the opposition in Delhi assembly and Delhi unit working president Virendra Sachdeva held Kejriwal government responsible for NGT slapping a fine of Rs 2232 crore on Delhi government. "The Kejriwal government wasted thousands of crores of Yamuna cleaning money for its publicity and to brighten its face and now the people of Delhi will have to bear this fine of Rs. 6100 crores," Bidhuri said.

Delhi Congress president Anil Kumar said that the Kejriwal Government has squandered over Rs 5500 crore in the name of Yamuna cleaning, but it was yet another scam as the money went into the pockets of Kejriwal like all his



other projects, his Ministers and his friends instead of using the money for cleaning the Yamuna.

The tribunal had, in October last year, directed the Delhi government to pay Rs 900 crore as environmental compensation, following which the authorities concerned had filed a review petition.

"The issue of emergency situation of failure to tackle legacy waste as per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 was earlier considered by this tribunal...Whereby liability for compensation for failure to scientifically handle solid waste was determined at Rs 900 crore, which does not appear to have been paid so far as review applications have been filed, which are being disposed of by separate orders today," the NGT said.

"The amount may now be paid with the additional amount of Rs 2,232 crore," the tribunal said.

NGT constitutes Solid Waste Monitoring Committee to be headed by Saxena

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has constituted a Solid Waste Monitoring Committee to be headed by Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on the pattern of the High Level Yamuna Monitoring Committee.

"We are of the view that in the given situation when emergent situation remains untackled after monitoring at the level of Hon'ble Supreme Court for 18 years and at the level of this Tribunal for the last nine years, monitoring should now be at the highest level of Administration in Delhi with inclusion of all other concerned authorities — including Delhi



Government, Municipal Corporation, DDA with strong monitoring mechanism envisaging weekly review with defined targets and accountability on the pattern of Yamuna monitoring Committee," the NGT said in its order.

"Accordingly, we constitute Solid Waste Monitoring Committee to be headed by the Lt Governor of Delhi. Other members of the Committee will be Chief Secretary, Delhi,

who will act as Convener, Secretaries, Urban Development, Forest and Environment, Agriculture, and Finance, Delhi Government, Vice Chairman, DDA, Secretary or his nominee (not below the rank of Additional Secretary), Ministry of Agriculture, GoI, D.G. Forest or his nominee (not below the rank of DDG), MoEF&CC, GoI, Secretary, MoUD or his nominee not below the rank of Additional Secretary, Secretary, MoEF&CC or his nominee not below the rank of Additional Secretary, Chairman CPCB, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and jurisdictional District Magistrates and DCPS," the NGT said.

Delhi Govt approves project worth ₹23 cr for beautification of Ring Road

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has approved a project worth Rs 23 crores for the beautification and maintenance of a 4.60 km road stretch on the Ring Road from the IP flyover to Hanuman Setu.

The stretch includes memorials such as Rajghat, which are visited by national and international dignitaries, and hence needs to have smooth roads for commuting. The project has been taken up on priority by the Public Works Department (PWD) in view of the preparations for G20, which will see visitors from all over the world. While approving the project, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said, "It is a matter of great pride and honour for all of us to host the G20 in Delhi. In view of the prepa-

rations for G20, under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Arvind Kejriwal, we are working in mission mode to improve the roads of Delhi to provide a better commuting experience to all. The work of beautification and strengthening of the road from the IP flyover to Hanuman Setu will be done by PWD on Ring Road, as well as special attention will be paid to the landscaping of roadsides."

The project includes the maintenance and upkeep of pavements, central verges and service lanes of the entire road stretch, including other allied works such as lane marking, white-washing of parapet walls, painting of kerbstones/railings, etc. To ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the commuters, all the standards of safety and security will be fol-



lowed during the construction of roads. The project will also include the development of facilities such as plantation on central verges and roadsides, maintenance of streetlights and footpaths.

The 4.60-kilometer-long road is one of the most important roads in Delhi and houses the memorials of all former

Prime Ministers of India and Mahatma Gandhi, which are visited by various national and international dignitaries along with a large number of tourists. In view of the G20 summit, people from all over the world are likely to visit them. In such a situation, the government will give a new look to this extremely important road stretch.

Govt's 'Pink Pass' scheme for women achieves 100 crore ticket milestone

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Launched in October 2019, the Delhi Government's 'Pink Pass' scheme which allows women to travel for free in public buses achieved a new milestone with 100 crore tickets issued till January end.

"A total of 100 crore Pink tickets have been issued till the end of January 2023. Delhi is the first State in the country to initiate free travel for women on such a large scale. Public transport is an essential pillar of the development of the city. In a city like Delhi, even with its vast network of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), bus ridership has also seen good growth over the years."

In 2022, DTC and DIMTS buses combined saw an average daily ridership of 36 lakhs, hitting as high as 40 lakhs daily

in a few months. In 2022, free travel for women via Pink tickets contributed to nearly 32% of the total number of passengers travelling in a month.

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said, "An important milestone not just for the government but for all the citizens of Delhi. Under the leadership of Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi has shown how free travel can empower the women in the city. The rising number of women bus travellers over the years shows the impact it has created and how much they have benefited from this scheme. Delhi government has spent 1000 crores on the Pink passes issued over these years."

An analysis of the ridership of Delhi buses (DTC and DIMTS combined) shows that it is slowly inching back



towards the pre-COVID numbers. In 2019-20, Delhi buses had a ridership of more than 160 crores. Due to COVID in the years 2020 and 2021, it dropped to 71 crores in 2020-21, slightly recovering to 93 crores in 2021-22.

Since April 2022 till February 17, it has reached

nearly 125 crores, almost 75% of the pre covid numbers. Across these years, since the beginning of free travel for women in Oct 2019, the pink ticket ridership has grown from 25% in 2020-21 and 28% in 2021-22 to nearly 33% in 2022-23 till date, as per the statement.

Yamuna Vihar man, son shot at by neighbour over parking

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 55-year-old man and his son were shot at early Friday by their neighbour and his associates in northeast Delhi's Yamuna Vihar over a parking issue. According to police, Virender Aggarwal was shot in the chest and his son Sachin Aggarwal, 25, was wounded in his hand in the firing. They were rushed to hospital and are stated to be out of danger.

The incident took place Friday around 1 AM when the victims were returning home from a wedding. As they approached their residence, they saw a neighbour's car parked on the road in a way that blocked the lane.

"They asked the neighbour, Arif, to move his car and an argument broke out. The situation was for a while placated after Arif's landlord Furqan and other local people intervened," police said.

Later, Arif barged inside the Aggarwals' house, a building in front of his rented accommodation, and started arguing with the family, the



officer said. The argument escalated and Arif and his associates opened fire, injuring Virender and Sachin, police added. The victim deals in building materials.

Virender's other son Saurabh Aggarwal said 10-15 rounds were fired by the group. Police said local people managed to catch one of Arif's two associates. He

The locals alleged that the accused, who was taken to GTB hospital, seemed under the influence of some intoxicant, police said, adding that medical examination will clear it. According to police, Arif deals in second-hand cars and had shifted to the neighbourhood around seven to eight months ago.

A case under sections 307 (attempt to murder) and 34 (common intention) of the



IPC and Arms Act was registered at Bhajanpura Police Station and the investigation was initiated. Arif and his other associate are absconding. Multiple teams have been formed to nab them, police said. There is no communal angle in this incident. However, police presence in the area has been increased to prevent any kind of rumours or any untoward situation, they added.

Subhash Aggarwal, the younger brother of Virender, said, "We have been living here for the past 35 years and nothing like this happened before in the area. Our society is very peaceful and people know each other for long. First time I am seeing that the firing took place over a parking issue. We have asked the accused earlier also to move his car and no scuffle took place then."

Provision to pursue dual degrees, online learning, FYUP proposed by JMI in line with NEP 2020

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Provisions to pursue dual degrees, online learning, and four-year undergraduate programmes (FYUP) are among the new introductions proposed by Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) for the next academic session in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The introductions were discussed in the Jamia Millia Islamia's Academic Council (AC) meeting last week.

The council deliberated on a slew of matters including the extension of the adoption of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) in its undergraduate and postgraduate courses. The matter will be presented before the next meeting of the Executive council — the highest decision-making body of the varsity. JMI Vice Chancellor Najma Akhtar told PTI that the varsity was in the process of adopting several aspects of the NEP. "We have tried to adopt all aspects of the National Education Policy. We are taking steps to adopt sev-

eral parts of NEP."

The NEP, approved by the government in August 2020, replaced the 34-year-old National Policy on Education framed in 1986 and is aimed at paving the way for "transformational reforms" in school and higher education systems to make India a "global knowledge superpower."

"In the recently held Academic Council meeting, the members adopted UGC guidelines for multiple entry and exit options in academic programmes offered in higher education institutions and implementation of the layout of restructured four-year undergraduate programmes," Akhtar said. Jamia is likely to offer four-year undergraduate programmes (FYUP) with multiple exit and entry options from the upcoming academic session. The layout of the programme was adopted in a recently held AC meeting. The matter will now be presented in the next meeting of the Executive Council, which is the highest decision-making body of the university, they said.



Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia during the inauguration of the 35 Garden Tourism Festival at Garden of Five Senses in Saket on Friday

Ranjan Dimri / Pioneer

Won't accept advice on investors' safety in sealed cover: SC to Govt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to accept in a sealed cover the Centre's suggestion on a proposed panel of experts for strengthening regulatory measures for stock markets in the wake of the recent crash of Adani Group shares triggered by Hindenburg Research's fraud allegations. Observing that it wanted "full transparency for protection of investors", the SC also ruled out the possibility of any sitting judge overseeing the functioning of the proposed panel and said it will appoint a panel of experts on its own. "We are closing it for orders," said the Bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud after hearing brief submissions by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and PIL petitioners, including



lawyers Prashant Bhushan and ML Sharma. The law officer said he had given a note on the names and 'remit' (scope) of the committee in a sealed cover. "This has been given with two intentions in mind. A) A holistic view is taken and the truth comes out; B) No unintended message goes out, having an impact on the security market, which is an emotion driven market," Mehta said.

The bench referred to the losses suffered by the investors. The SG said he has no issues with regard to any judge supervising the committee. "We would rather not accept

the sealed cover suggestions. We want to ensure transparency. In case we take your suggestions from sealed cover, it automatically means the other party won't know," said the bench, which also comprised Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala.

"We want full transparency for the protection of investors. We will form a committee. There will be a sense of confidence in the court," the bench said. "Sitting (SC) judges can hear the matter and they cannot be the part of the committee," the CJ said, adding he has been facing difficulties in setting up benches everyday.

On February 10, the top court had said the interest of Indian investors need to be protected against market volatility against the backdrop of the Adani Group stocks rout and asked the

Centre to consider setting up a panel of domain experts headed by a former judge to look at strengthening the regulatory mechanism.

The crucial hearing on the PILs on Friday assumed significance in the wake of the recent developments like the Centre agreeing to the apex court's proposal to set up a committee, likely to be headed by a former Supreme Court judge, to go into the regulatory regimes. The Centre had told the bench that it wanted to provide details such as names and the scope of the panel's mandate in a "sealed cover". SEBI, in its note filed in the court, had indicated it is not in favour of banning short-selling or sale of borrowed shares, and said it is investigating allegations made by a tiny short-seller against Adani Group as well as its share price movements.

India readies list of activities for carbon credit trading

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a move aimed at meeting its goal of Net Zero emissions by 2070 and reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by more than 45 per cent, India has finalised a list of activities to be considered for trading of carbon credits in the carbon markets under bilateral/ cooperative approaches.

The list comes days after the Government in the Union Budget 2023 gave a fresh thrust to the country's transition to clean energy by allocating Rs 35,000 crore in priority capital investment towards achieving the goal of net zero carbon emission by 2070. An additional Rs 19,700 crore was sanctioned towards the Government's National Green Hydrogen Mission, being seen as a fuel of the future.

As expected, under the GHG mitigation measures, the Government is banking on



green hydrogen, renewable energy with storage (only stored component), solar thermal power, off-shore wind, compressed bio-gas, emerging mobility solutions like fuel cells, high end technology for energy efficiency, sustainable aviation fuel, best available technologies for process improvement in hard to abate sectors, tidal energy and ocean thermal energy to move towards clean energy system.

Other areas are ocean salt gradient energy, ocean wave energy and ocean current energy, high voltage direct current transmission in conjunction with the renewable energy projects. Under the category, alternate materials it hopes projects

related with green ammonia will have good potential to earn carbon credit.

"These activities will facilitate adoption/transfer of emerging technologies and may be used to mobilise international finance in India. The activities will initially be for the first three years and may be updated/revised by the concerned authorities.

The projects under the said activities may take part in international carbon market under Article 6 mechanisms, according to which emission reductions that have been authorized for transfer by the selling country's government may be sold to another country, but only one country may count the emission reduction toward its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). It is critical to avoid double counting so that global emission reductions are not overestimated.

Temple defacement: Canadian MP asks authorities to 'take issue seriously'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/TORONTO

The incidents of vandalism of Hindu temples by alleged Khalistani supporters and hate crimes against Hindus figured in the Canadian Parliament on Friday. Raising the matter, India-born Canadian MP Chandra Arya also urged the authorities there "to take the issue seriously."

His condemnation of hate crimes by "anti-Hindu" and "anti-India" groups came days after a temple was sprayed with graffiti in Ontario's Mississauga city with anti-India graffiti on Tuesday.

Arya also recalled other incidents of 'hate crimes' by 'anti-Hindu' and 'anti-India' groups and urged the authorities to 'take the issue seriously'.

He condemned the defacing of the latest incident and said, "It is with pain and anguish I note that the Ram Mandir, a Hindu temple in Mississauga has become the latest target of hate crime. Authorities in Canada need to seriously look into the activities of anti-Hindu and anti-India groups and take action now." He shared his speech in the House of Commons on twitter.

A Hindu temple was desecrated with anti-India and pro-Khalistan graffiti. The slogans spray-painted in the back of the Shri Ram Mandir in the area included those attacking India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and describing the founder of the separatist Khalistan movement, Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, as a 'martyr'.

The issue was earlier raised by India's High Commission in Ottawa with the Canada's foreign ministry. "We strongly condemn the defacing of Ram Mandir in Mississauga with anti-India graffiti. We have requested Canadian authorities to investigate the incident and take prompt action on perpetrators," India's consulate in Toronto tweeted.

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, केन्द्रीय मण्डार, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान, जल भवन, बी० ब्लाक, नेहरू कालोनी, देहरादून								
पत्रांक:-1082/ ई-निविदा / 2022-23								
ई-निविदा सूचना								
उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से केन्द्रीय मण्डार, देहरादून द्वारा निम्न कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदा, टू-बिड सिस्टम (तकनीकी बिड एवं कॉमिश्नियल बिड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।								
निविदा सं.	कार्य विवरण	धनराशि रु.	ई-निविदा प्रचलन करने की तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा अपोलो करने की प्रारंभ एवं अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा सूचना क्र.सं. 7 अनुसार मूल प्रचलन करने की तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	निविदा की वैधता	प्रि-क्लि-रॉलिंग की तिथि एवं समय
26/ 22-23	वार्षिक दर अनुबंध पर, Tamper proof water meters (inferital type) as per standard conforming to IS:779:1994/IS:2373-1981/ISO: 4064 with ISI or EEC/MID certification mark shall be with protection class of IP68 with 2 years warranty anywhere in Uttarakhand की आपूर्ति।	26,00,000.00	22.02.2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	05.03.2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 13.03.2023 upto 5:00 p.m.	13.03.2023 upto 5:00 p.m.	14.03.2023 at 11:00 a.m.	120 days	28.02.2023 upto 11:00 a.m.
27/ 22-23	वार्षिक दर अनुबंध पर, Tamper proof bulk water meters (woltman type) as per standard conforming to IS:779:1994/IS:2373-1981/ISO: 4064 with ISI or EEC/MID certification mark shall be with protection class of IP68 with 2 years warranty anywhere in Uttarakhand की आपूर्ति।	5,00,000.00	22.02.2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	05.03.2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 13.03.2023 upto 5:00 p.m.	13.03.2023 upto 5:00 p.m.	14.03.2023 at 11:00 a.m.	120 days	28.02.2023 upto 11:00 a.m.
अर्हता:- 1. ISI or EEC/MID certification mark license for water meters and factory as per standard conforming to IS:779:1994/IS:2373-1981/ISO: 4064 certificate holder or dealers authorized by the manufacturer are allowed to participate in this tender. The Joint Venture are also allowed in this tender. 2. Authorised dealer should have MOU with manufacturer with assured minimum quantity. 3. The preference will be given to the water meter manufacturers. Manufacturer must have supplied minimum 50,000 water meters to government/semi gov/PSU in last seven years ie 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22. 4. Production unit of the manufacturer should be established in India.								
अर्हता:- 1. ISI or EEC/MID certification mark license for water meters and factory as per standard conforming to IS:779:1994/IS:2373-1981/ISO: 4064 certificate holder or dealers authorized by the manufacturer are allowed to participate in this tender. The Joint Venture are also allowed in this tender. 2. Authorised dealer should have MOU with manufacturer with assured minimum quantity. 3. The preference will be given to the water meter manufacturers. Manufacturer must have supplied minimum 50,000 water meters to government/semi gov/PSU in last seven years ie 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22. 4. Production unit of the manufacturer should be established in India.								
ई-निविदा से सम्बंधित समस्त जानकारीयें व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट www.uktenders.gov.in एवं विभागीय वेबसाइट http://ujs.uk.gov.in पर ऑन लाइन देखी / प्राप्त की जा सकती है।								
अधिशासी अभियन्ता								

EAM asks Hindi lovers to make it world language

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/NADI(FIJI)

Urging all Hindi language lovers to work together to make it a world language, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday expressed confidence that the World Hindi Conference will transform into a Hindi "Mahakumbh" in the near future and will provide an essential platform to those engaged in making it a world language.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the 12th World Hindi Conference here in Fiji, Jaishankar said that to achieve the goal of making Hindi a global language, all Hindi lovers must work together in synergy.

More than a thousand Hindi scholars and writers from around 30 countries participated in the three-day conference in Nadi from February 15-17. The conference was organised in collaboration with the Government of Fiji.

Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister, Biman Prasad, also present at the closing ceremony, described the conference as historic for the South-

Pacific island nation and said the government led by Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka is taking all possible steps to strengthen Hindi in the country, including Hindi being allowed to deliver speeches in Hindi in the Fijian Parliament.

Hitting out at his political opponents, Prasad, in his remarks in Hindi, said in the past 10-15 years, efforts were made to weaken the language in the archipelago.

Jaishankar, referring to discussions with the Fijian leadership on Wednesday, said he assured Rabuka that India would take steps to further strengthen cultural ties with Fiji.

"The World Hindi Conference will become the 'Mahakumbh' of Hindi in the near future," Jaishankar said, implying that it will attract more Hindi lovers across the globe.

"Honoured to participate in the valedictory function of the 12th World Hindi Conference held in Fiji. Thank you for joining Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister Biman Prasad ji. The 3-day conference clearly reflected the strong cultur-



al and historical ties between Fiji and India," Jaishankar tweeted.

"During the ceremony, more than 900 scholars and Hindi lovers from all over the world had a positive discussion on various important aspects of wide publicity of Hindi. Such events are also strengthening the expansion of other Indian languages," he tweeted along with pictures.

The minister also revealed that the Fijian Prime Minister's favourite film is the hugely popular Bollywood film of the 70s, 'Sholay', which he used as a comparison for

the friendship between the two countries. Jaishankar added that Rabuka especially likes the song in the movie 'Yeh Dosti Hum Nahi Todenge'.

At the closing ceremony, 25 scholars and organisations working for the promotion, dissemination and development of Hindi globally were also honoured.

The main theme of the Conference was "Hindi: From Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence". Ten other academic sessions were held on diverse sub-themes.

Iran's Foreign Minister cancels India visit over protest video

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has cancelled his visit to India over a video that showed Iranian women cutting their hair in anti-Government protests, as per media reports here.

The Minister was scheduled to visit New Delhi for the Raisina Dialogue next month organised by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs.

Reports said Tehran was upset about the promotional



video for the Raisina Dialogue, which included a shot of Iranian women cutting their hair, along with an image of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

The video was put out about a month ago to announce the 2023 edition of the Dialogues.

Quoting sources, reports said the Iranian Embassy here contacted the ORF and the ministry of external affairs and objected to their President's image alongside protesters. They reportedly asked the organisers to delete that part of the video, but that did not happen, reports said.

Protests erupted in Iran in September after a young woman, Mahsa Amini, died in custody after being arrested for wearing what the authorities called "inappropriate attire". Iran denied allegations that Amini died after being attacked in custody, and claimed her death was caused by illness.

CBI arrests 6 accused for illegal recruitment in Bengal's SSC scam

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Friday arrested six accused (private persons) in an on-going investigation of cases registered on the allegations of illegal recruitment of Group-D, Group-C and Assistant Teacher for class IX-X and XI-XII (SSC Scam) in West Bengal.

It was alleged that the accused were part of the network set up for money collection from various candidates and were facilitating employment to undeserving and



unlisted candidates in various schools across West Bengal, the CBI said in a statement.

The accused persons arrested in four separate cases are Subrata Samanta Roy, Koushik Ghosh, Sahid Imam, Ali Imam, Abdul Khalek, and Chandan Mondal. All the arrested persons are private persons/agents.

IRCTC to run Gurukripa Trains for Sikh pilgrimages

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

After special Bharat Gaurav trains to Hindu pilgrimage sites, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is set to run a special train service to places of significance for the Sikh community. Christened as Gurukripa Train, it will run from Lucknow on April 5 and take pilgrims to gurdwaras and five Takhts in Punjab, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Bihar.

The announcement comes at the backdrop of Railways flagging off its Bharat Gaurav deluxe AC tourist train on Friday for a tour of the "Shri Ram-Janaki Yatra: Ayodhya to Janakpur", covering two significant pilgrimage centres of Ayodhya in India and Janakpur in Nepal. The tourist train is expected to strengthen the relations and promote the cultural relations between the two neighbouring countries. The tour package will also include visits to Nandigram, Sitamarhi, Kashi



and Prayagraj as added attractions.

A senior Railway Board official said the IRCTC will run the Gurukripa Yatra train which will take pilgrims to Gurudwaras in Sitapur, Pilibhit and Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh. After that its first halt will be in Shri Kesgarh Sahib and then it will go to Anandpur Sahib. From there, it will go via Shri Fatehgarh Sahib to Shri Akal Takht, Amritsar; Shri Damdama Sahib, Bathinda; Shri Hazur Sahib, Nanded-Maharashtra; Shri Guru Nanak Jhira Sahib, Bidar-Karnataka; and Patna Sahib in Bihar and will reach

back to Lucknow on April 15.

The journey will be of 10 nights and 11 days. The capacity of the tourist train is 678. The Gurukripa train will have modern sleeper, AC-2 and AC-3 coaches. The fare for sleeper will be Rs 19,999 per passenger, while the AC-3 fare will be Rs 29,999, and AC-2 fare 39,999. The train fare includes accommodation for the pilgrims in a good hotel, food, breakfast, bus transportation to and from the station, etc. In 2019, the Railways had run the Panch Takht Express for pilgrims to visit religious of significance for the Sikh community.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 3rd Floor, Plot No- 23, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Bank Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) R/w Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the borrower, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Number (Loan Account Number) (DHFL Old LAN & ICICI New LAN)	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Sunil Chandra/ Nirmla/ QZDEL00005011443	WZ-26, New No. WZ-34, First Floor Without Roof R/GHTS, Kh. No 13/12, Village Chaukhandi Ram Nagar Extn., P.o. Tilak Nagar, Delhi New Delhi-18/ 15 February, 2023	July 08, 2021 Rs. 10,81,995/-	Delhi
2.	Pooja Kumar/ Pooja Sumit/ QZPTU00005000294	Plot No B-32, Second Floor, Khasra No.105/7, Village Palam, Gali No.04, Raja Puri, Uttam Nagar, Delhi, New Delhi-110059/ 15 February, 2023	July 08, 2021 Rs. 12,39,460/-	Delhi

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : February 18, 2023
Place : Delhi/ NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005

PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

This E-auction Sale notice for sale of Immoveable asset is being issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. (on underlying pool assigned to ICICI Bank by Dewan Housing Finance Ltd.) in relation to the enforcement of security in respect of a housing loan facility granted pursuant to a loan agreement entered into between DHFL and the following borrower(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Ms. Durga Prasad Tiwari (Borrower) Ms. Shobha Devi (Co-Borrower) QZNO000005016405	Property No. C-8A, 2nd Floor Rear Side Without Roof Right, Block- C, Khasra No. 333, Village Bindapur, Subhash Park, Uttam Nagar, Delhi- 110059. Area: 360 Sq.Ft..	Rs. 19,54,554/- (As on February 09, 2023)	Rs. 11,00,000/- Rs. 1,10,000/-	February 24, 2023 from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM	March 20, 2023 from 12:00 noon onwards

The online auction will take place on the website of e-auction agency **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited (URL Link-<https://disposahub.com>)**. The Mortgagors/ noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till **March 18, 2023 before 5:00 pm** failing which, this secured asset will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) to **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005** on or before **March 18, 2023 before 5:00 pm** and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before **March 18, 2023 before 5:00 pm** along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at **ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005** on or before **March 18, 2023 before 5:00 pm**. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/Scheduled Bank in favour of "**ICICI Bank Limited**" payable at Delhi.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the E-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact **ICICI Bank Limited on 9599281817/8584874809**

Please note that Marketing agencies **M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited**. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit **www.icicibank.com/n4p4s**

Date : February 18, 2023
Place : Delhi/NCR

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

‘Hindu Rashtra idea against Bapu’s ideals’

PTI ■ PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday frowned upon the Sangh Parivar's concept of India as a “Hindu” nation, underscoring that this militated against what Mahatma Gandhi stood for.

The veteran Socialist leader, who ended his long alliance with the BJP last year, was responding to queries from journalists about the “Hindu rashtra” clamour, which was openly endorsed earlier this week by his Uttar Pradesh counterpart Yogi Adityanath.

“We must not listen to anything that goes against what Bapu stood for. In this country, people of all religions live together. Bapu stood for unity and this was the reason for his assassination,” said Kumar, who draws inspiration from Mahatma's views in formulating his ideas of governance.

The Chief Minister also warned that any deviation from Gandhi's insistence on secularism could lead to perversions (*jo isse kuchh alag karna chahta hai, vo ulta pulita karna chahta hai*). A product of the Bihar movement of 1974, Kumar had aligned with the BJP way back in the 1990s and held important portfolios in Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government.

The longest-serving CM assumed power in Bihar in 2005 and his rule has been marked by a refusal to give in to BJP's “Hindutva” plank despite alliance. The headline “Hindutva” image of his then



Gujarat counterpart Narendra Modi had caused him to have reservations about BJP leader campaigning for elections in Bihar and break alliance when it became evident that saffron party wanted to make charismatic leader its Prime Ministerial candidate.

Kumar realigned with BJP in 2017, only to call off alliance five years later, but maintained a distinct ideological position on key issues like Ayodhya, Article 370, triple talaq and NRC.

The chief minister spoke to journalists on the sidelines of a function where his deputy Tejashwi Yadav, of current ally RJD, was also present. He reacted dismissively to allegations of RJD's MLA and former minister Sudhaker Singh that government was “anti-farmer”.

“These people have no idea how much has been done by us for farmers and how much progress has been made in agriculture sector,” said Kumar, refusing to give any importance to recalcitrance of Singh, who was first made to resign as agriculture minister and thereafter served with a show cause by his party for frequent vituperations against Government.

Nitish raps IT raids on BBC, rejection of demand for probe into Adani Group

Patna: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday said the Income Tax Department's surveys on the BBC's premises in Delhi and Mumbai were a “clear cut” indication of the Narendra Modi Government's intolerance of criticism.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a function here, the JD(U) leader also criticised the brusque manner in which the demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe into allegations against the Adani Group has been rejected by the Centre, pointing out that this was unlike the Vajpayee era when the voice of the Opposition was given a patient hearing.

“I had been busy with my Samadhan Yatra all these days. But I read something about it (IT raids) in newspapers. I will try to learn about it in more detail,” Kumar said in reply to a question on the action against the international broadcaster.

When his attention was drawn to the fact that the IT department's survey has come shortly after a documentary produced by the BBC, on the Gujarat riots, raised the hackles of the Modi government which has banned its telecast across the country, Kumar responded with a wry smile.

“They (the BBC) have such a wide network. They have been everywhere for so long. If the action (IT raids) is a result of their work, then it is a clear indication that these people (the ruling dispensation) can brook no criticism,” said Kumar, who had dumped the BJP nearly six months ago.

He also claimed, “I have never had any problems with any adverse media coverage. **PTI**

Why no Central team for Kanpur Dehat, asks Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee continued to attack the BJP Government for what she called it's “vindictive approach” towards the Opposition-ruled States, particularly Bengal.

Wondering why the saffron Government had not sent a Central team to Kanpur where a mother-daughter duo died allegedly by self-immolation to resist the State Government's eviction drive, Banerjee said the poor had no place in the BJP's scheme of things.

“The poor people are being evicted from their dwelling places in UP,” Banerjee said, adding that the situation was such that a mother and her daughter were burnt to death.

A mother-daughter duo on February 13, died by self-immolation at Kanpur Dehat region in their bid to resist the Government officials who had gone to evict unauthorised squatters on Government lands. “While in Bengal we provide land and shelter to the people, in UP they torture them... Snatch their dwelling places,” Banerjee said.

“In Bengal they will frequently send central teams but no central team was sent to probe the incident at Kanpur,” the Chief Minister said while addressing a gathering a meeting at Bankura.

The Bengal government had been highly critical of the Centre for frequently sending teams to inquire into the proper implementation of schemes funded by the New Delhi.

Much to the chagrin of the



Chief Minister Central teams have been visiting Bengal at regular intervals to inquire into the implementation of PMAY (housing) scheme, MNREGA, alleged violation of human rights etc.

“On one hand they have stopped all funds that rightfully belong to the State ... and on the other they will send central teams to humiliate us ... am I a magician to implement the schemes without funds,” Banerjee had said on Thursday.

She alleged that while the Centre takes away the GST it refuses to pay back the State's share to the effect that more than Rs one lakh crore was presently due from the Centre. The Chief Minister had been visiting the districts announcing various schemes ahead of the panchayat elections.

The BJP immediately hit back at the Chief Minister with State leader Samik Bhattacharya saying the Centre had not withheld any funds.

“The Centre has only asked the State government to account for the money sent earlier and submit the utilisation certificates ... the money belongs to the people and not any particular party,” he said.

Doval: Food security an important dimension of national security



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PANTNAGAR

In the 34th convocation held at Govind Ballah Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, the country's first agricultural university, Uttarakhand Governor and Chancellor Lt Gen (Retd) Gurmit Singh, who was the chief guest, awarded degrees to 2,503 students.

He told students to dream and make a resolution. Pantnagar has been the mother of green revolution and again there is a need to bring revolution in seeds, agriculture and horticulture, he said. If we contribute with full responsibility, nothing can stop us from being a developed nation and world leader.

Students should possess three things like trident — first recognise one's ability, second, take thinking, thoughts and notion to a very high level and third maintain self-discipline. On the occasion National Security Advisor Ajit Doval was awarded the honorary DSc

degree. He said the university had served the country at that time when there was a situation of famine and had to import foodgrains from other countries. Today we are not only capable of producing foodgrains but also exporting them to other countries. He appreciated the efforts of scientists and researchers. He said, “our neighbouring country China is producing more foodgrains in less land than us.

We need to make more efforts to increase foodgrains”. Food security is an important dimension for national security. He called upon the students and young scientists to contribute in increasing the production in the next 10 years.

Uttarakhand Agriculture Minister Ganesh Joshi, who was the special guest, while congratulating the degree holders said the future of Uttarakhand is looking bright as the number of girl students is increasing as compared to male students. The area under agriculture is decreasing in the

country but the production is increasing. Despite having a population of 140 crore we are providing foodgrains to 20 to 25 countries, he added. Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research Dr Himanshu Pathak said convocation holds a special place in our lives.

Vice-Chancellor Dr Manmohan Singh Chauhan presenting annual report said university by moving forward in form of green revolution is also contributing significantly in agriculture, livestock, milk and fish production. On the occasion students who had completed their degrees in the years 2020-2021 and 2021-22 were awarded medals and degrees. Registrar Dr AK Shukla conducted proceedings and proposed the vote of thanks in the end. On the occasion faculty members, officers, employees, students and others were present.

Uddhav says EC call on real Shiv Sena dangerous for democracy, to move SC against panel decision

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray on Friday said the Election Commission's (EC's) order recognising the Eknath Shinde faction as the real Shiv Sena was “dangerous for democracy”, and he would challenge it in the Supreme Court.

Speaking at a Press conference hours after the EC's decision, Thackeray accused the poll panel of having become the Union Government's slave. “It may even take away our symbol of flaming torch tomorrow,” he said.

He also appealed to his followers not to give up, and fight the battle to win. The party and people were with him, he said. “Let the thieves rejoice for a few days,” he said,



reacting to the setback to his faction. The Supreme Court is the last hope to ensure that democracy is alive in the country, Thackeray said.

If this hope vanished, we should stop holding elections forever and become a one-man rule, he said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi should announce that after 75 years of independence the country was not a democracy any longer but

moving towards tyranny, he added. “Those who think they have got state recognition for their theft will always remain thieves,” Thackeray said, referring to rebel Sena MLAs led by Maharashtra Chief Minister Shinde. He also accused Shinde of stealing party founder Balasaheb Thackeray's photo, party and symbol, adding that he will not be able to “digest this theft for long”. “The party and people are with me.

We complied with everything that the EC sought and submitted all papers about membership and organisational strength, and still the EC ruled against us,” Thackeray said. The EC's decision in the Shinde faction's favour was also an indication that civic polls in Mumbai and elsewhere will happen soon,

Thackeray said. The EC decision was a conspiracy as recently deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union minister Narayan Rane had publicly said that the Shiv Sena's symbol will be given to the Shinde faction, he alleged.

“The Shinde group might have stolen the bow and arrow symbol on paper but the real bow and arrow which Balasaheb Thackeray used to worship is with me,” Thackeray said.

He described the prevailing situation like the one that existed on June 19, 1966, when Shiv Sena was formed. “The Shiv Sena will rise again and will not be finished,” he said. “Maharashtra has always fought against injustice and people will teach the thieves a lesson,” he said.

Attack on Prithvi Shaw: Bhojpuri actress arrested, sent to police custody till Feb 20

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Bhojpuri films actress and social media influencer Sapna Gill, who is one of the eight people booked for the assault on cricketer Prithvi Shaw and other offences, was on Friday remanded by a city court to police custody till February 20.

Sapna who was arrested late on Thursday night for her involvement for offences like unlawful assembly, rioting, extortion, intentional insult and other offences against the eight accused – was produced before the Andheri Magistrate Court which remanded her to police custody till Monday (February 20). Thirty-two-year-old Sapna Gill hails from Chandigarh. Based in Mumbai,



she is a social media influencer on several channels like YouTube, Instagram, Josh, SnapChat, etc. She has acted in Bhojpuri films with top actors like Ravi Kishen, Pawan Singh, Dineshlal Yadav and many others. The alleged assault on the cricketer took place in the early hours of Wednesday when Shaw and his friend

Ashish Surendra Yadav had gone to a five-star hotel at Santa Cruz for dinner on Wednesday night.

Shaw — a right-handed opening batsman who plays for Mumbai in Ranji trophy and Delhi capitals in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and made international cricket debut for India in 2018—and his friend were having dinner, two persons came to them and requested the cricketer to pose for a selfie with them, which he obliged.

Minutes later, more people from the same group came to Shaw and demanded to pose for selfies with them. However, Shaw refused, saying that they had come to the restaurant for a quiet dinner and they did not want to be disturbed.

After the duo came out of the restaurant after finishing the dinner, the accused -- who were waiting outside -- attacked with them baseball bats and smashed the windows of the car in which they were leaving. Shaw managed to escape from the scene of the incident without being hurt.

After the incident, Shaw left in another car. As Shaw and his friend drove off, Sapna and his friends reportedly chased them in another car and were stopped at a police check post at nearby Santacruz.

The video clips of the shocking incident, shot by some by-standers, went viral in which the cricketer is seen trying to save himself while Sapna is wielding a baseball bat ostensibly to hit him.

SC refuses to refer Sena case to bigger seven-judge Bench

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday declined to refer pleas related to the June 2022 Maharashtra political crisis triggered by the Shiv Sena's division to a seven-judge Bench for reconsideration of the 2016 Nabam Rebha judgment.

The judgment came to the rescue of the rebel Shiv Sena MLAs led by Eknath Shinde, now the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. The party's Uddhav Thackeray faction had sought their disqualification even when a notice of the Shinde group for the removal of Maharashtra Assembly Deputy Speaker Narhari Sitaram Zirwal, a Thackeray loyalist, was pending before the House.

In 2016, a five-judge Constitution bench, while deciding the Nabam Rebha case of Arunachal Pradesh, had held that the assembly speaker cannot proceed with a plea for disqualification of MLAs if a prior notice seeking the speaker's removal is pending before the House.

A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said whether the 2016 Nabam Rebha judgment requires reference or not

will be considered with the merits of the case on February 21. The Bench said the issue whether a reference to a larger seven-judge bench is to be made can not be considered in an “abstract, isolated and divorced” manner.

“Whether the principle formulated in Nabam Rebha has an impact on the factual position in the present case needs deliberation. The issue whether the reference of the decision in Nabam Rebha to a larger bench is warranted would be determined together with the merits of the case.

“Consequently, hearing on merits of the case will be held on Tuesday, 10:30 am,” said the bench, which also comprises justices MR Shah, Krishna Murari, Hima Kohli and PS Narasimha. Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and AM Singhvi, appearing for the Thackeray faction, had sought reference of the cases to a seven-judge bench for a relook at the Nabam Rebha judgment.

Senior advocates Harish Salve and N K Kaul, appearing for the Shinde-led faction, had opposed the reference to a larger bench. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Maharashtra Governor, had also opposed any move to refer the matter to a larger bench.

2 men burnt to death by cow vigilantes: Raj cops nab cabbie

PTI ■ JAIPUR/GURUGRAM

One person was arrested on Friday in connection with the death of two Muslim men from Rajasthan whose charred bodies were found in a car in Haryana after they were allegedly abducted by cow vigilantes, police said.

In a statement, the Rajasthan Police said Rinku Saini, 32, a resident of Firozpur Jhirka in Haryana's Nuh district, was arrested on the basis of interrogation and technical analysis.

Saini, a taxi diver, was involved with a cow vigilante group, the police said. Saini was among the five people named in the FIR in the matter. The police statement said the remaining accused will be arrested at the earliest.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot condemned the incident and said police have been directed to take strict action in the matter. Nasir (25) and Junaid alias Juna (35), both residents of Ghatmeeka village in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan, were allegedly abducted on Wednesday and their bodies were found inside a burnt car in Loharu in Bhiwani on Thursday morning.

The families of the deceased alleged in their police complaint that the people who abducted the two men were



from the Bajrang Dal. “Half a dozen people have been detained and are being interrogated.

Those named in the FIR are associated with the Bajrang Dal but whether they were involved in the crime or not is yet to be ascertained,” Inspector General of Police, Bharatpur range, Gaurav Srivastava told PTI. Junaid had a record of cattle smuggling. Five cases were registered against him at different police stations, the officer said.

One of the key accused in the case is Mohit Yadav alias Monu Manesar, the Gurugram district president of Bajrang Dal and a member of a self-proclaimed cow protection team. He was earlier named in an attempt to murder case registered at Pataudi police station in Gurugram on February 7.

The police forces of Rajasthan and Haryana are trying to nab him. “Our crime unit and police station teams are searching for accused Monu. We hope he will be

Underage marriages being cancelled due to crackdown, says Assam CM

PTI ■ GUWAHATI

Claiming that the Assam Government's fortnight-long crackdown on child marriage had a “positive” impact in the State, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said several families had cancelled scheduled weddings of underage people as a fallout of the ongoing drive.

The operation started on February 3 and 3,031 people have been apprehended against registration of 4,225 cases till Tuesday.

“Reports are coming from various parts of Assam that several families have cancelled pre-scheduled marriages between underage children after our drive against such illegal practices,” Sarma wrote on Twitter. “This is definitely a positive impact of our two-week long crackdown against child marriage,” he added on the micro-blogging site.

Opposition parties have criticised the manner in which the drive is being carried out, terming the arrests of teenage husbands and family members as an “abuse of law” for political gain, and equating the police action with “terrorising people”.

The Gauhati High Court had also come down heavily on the state government for slapping stringent laws like the Protection of Children from



Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) and rape charges on child marriage accused, and stated that these are “absolutely weird” allegations.

Observing that arresting a large number of people in the crackdown has created “havoc in the private life of people”, Justice Suman Shyam had on February 14 said there is no need for custodial interrogation of the accused in such cases.

Coming under criticism for failing to secure the future of the affected women and their children, the government had on February 9 formed a cabinet sub-committee for rehabilitation of the “victims”.

Asserting that the drive will continue till the 2026 Assembly election, Sarma had justified the measures and said nearly 17 per cent of over 6.2 lakh pregnant women in Assam last year were teenagers, according to the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) portal.

Rights body raps Assam Govt for crackdown on child marriages, arresting 3K people

New Delhi: The Association for Protection of Civil Rights on Friday lashed out at the Assam Government for arresting over 3,000 people allegedly involved in child marriages, accusing it of creating fear among the minorities in the State. The Assam Government's crackdown on child marriages began on February 3, and 3,031 people have been apprehended against registration of 4,225 cases till Tuesday, according to officials.

Advocate Tamanna Pankaj, who was a part of a fact-finding team of the rights body that conducted a survey in Dhubri district in Assam, alleged that the state police has been “violating guidelines” and arresting people “by barging into their houses”.

“More than 2,700 people have been arrested so far in the name of women protection. The police there have been violating guidelines and arresting people in the early hours of the day. By these actions, the administration is instilling fear among the people, especially the minority community,” Pankaj alleged. **PTI**

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

‘Proud daughter’

Nikki Haley, who remembers her roots, would be a good president for the US, India and the world

A conspicuous feature of Republican leader Nikki Haley’s presidency bid is her embrace of her country of origin. “I am the proud daughter of Indian immigrants and I am blessed that they are here today,” she said while launching the presidential campaign. This is in sharp contrast with the attitude of Bobby Jindal’s. Also a Republican like Haley, he has the distinction of being the first Governor (of Louisiana) of Indian origin. Again like her, he was also a rising star in his party, eyeing the top office. Just like her, he too converted to Christianity. But, unlike her, he didn’t want to be known by his origins. Jindal said, “I am done with all this talk about hyphenated Americans.” He went on to say, “We are not Indian-Americans, African-Americans, Irish-Americans. . .” We are just Americans, period — that was his ideology. On the other hand, Haley has no problems highlighting, even being proud of, her origins. In general, however, her position is essentially Republican or conservative — that is, conservative in the American sense of the word. Even though she is challenging former president and her former boss Donald Trump who appointed her as Ambassador to the United Nations, her views on most issues are not much different from Trump’s. But she blamed Trump for the January 6, 2021, turbulence at the US Capitol (liberals call it an ‘insurrection’) and suggested that the Republican Party would move on without him.

In consonance with Trump’s anti-China stand, Haley slammed China in her launch address, asserting that the communist nation will also end up on the “ash heap of history,” just like the erstwhile Soviet Union. Would she, if elected American president, be good for India? Well, her ethnicity is unlikely to mould her policies; at any rate, for one, the institutions and mechanisms in developed countries are too strong for a head of government to impose their whims and fancies. Secondly, politicians in democratic countries think about the electoral and political prospects, and these are determined by the people in their countries, not in other countries. This is the reason that US Vice-President Kamala Harris has shown little, if any, concern for India’s interests on account of her mother being an Indian. Neither has UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has done anything that, say, Boris Johnson would not have done. It would be good if Haley ends up becoming president, not because she is of Indian origin but because she is a Republican. The reason is that the Democratic Party is heavily influenced by the radical Left, as evident from its thoughtless support for the anarchist ‘defund the police’ movement, the divisive critical race theory, and the increasingly doctrinaire climate change policies. We must remember that it was Trump’s relentless campaign against China that built a climate of opinion in the US against China. Haley will be good for the US, India, and the world—and so would be any other Republican president.



An installation at the Delhi Tourism’s 35th Garden Tourism Festival at Garden of Five Senses, Saket, in New Delhi PTI

Timely Jal Jan Abhian

Water conservation is in the nation’s best interests and it should be taken up on priority

The Jal Jan Abhian launched by Prime Minister Modi is one of the timeliest steps to conserve water and ensure that people do not feel a shortage of water in the time to come. The Jal Jan Abhian is one of a joint nationwide campaign by Brahma Kumaris and the Union Jal Shakti Ministry, a kind of public-private partnership but it is all about creating awareness amongst the people and ensuring that water gets proper attention from the government as well as the people. The Jal Jan Abhian is perfectly synched with one of the 17 UN goals for sustainable development to be achieved by the year 2030. Water conservation is indeed one of the most important sustainable development programs for the country as we are running out of potable water. Most of our water bodies including rivers are polluted and whatever fresh water we have, is often wasted by the fortunate few while others have to fetch water from long distances. Most rivers, lakes, and surface water in India are polluted due to industries, untreated sewage, and solid wastes. Although the average annual precipitation in India is about 4000 billion cubic meters, only about 1122 billion cubic meters of water resources are available for utilization due to a lack of infrastructure. Much of this water is unsafe because pollution degrades water quality. Water pollution severely limits the amount of water available to Indian consumers, industry, and agriculture. Unfortunately, the root cause of water pollution is our ignorance and carelessness. We pollute rivers and water bodies without even realizing it.

In this context, the awareness campaign is very necessary. The Prime Minister rightly said that it should be a collective concern. Besides, over-exploitation of the groundwater is also a cause of concern as the water table is going down with every passing year. This is because we are the largest user of groundwater in the world, and most of the crops of wheat and rice bank upon groundwater extraction putting a heavy load on the groundwater. India uses 25 percent of all groundwater extracted globally, surpassing the USA and China. And because 70 percent of the water supply in agriculture today is groundwater, it will remain the lifeline of India’s water supplies for years to come. The awareness campaign will be held across the country for eight months, targeting 10 crore people. Indeed, as the Prime Minister rightly said, there shall be a tomorrow only if there is water, and for this, we have to make joint efforts right now!

Long-lost magical item on our plate

Millet is one of the most amazing foods for the human body but these have remained a low-key affair in the Indian diet and for our palate

After two years of isolation and chaotic challenges, people have finally realised the importance of maintaining a healthy mental and physical routine. The health-conscious culture has brought back many long-lost foods and habits that once supported healthy well-being. But is it affordable for all of us? Poverty and population rise are still one of the leading factors responsible for a lot of issues in the country. Hence, people as well as the government had no other choice but to introduce grains and other food items that can be affordable. This is where millet made its grand entry again!

The 2023-24 Indian budget session had a significant announcement about millets and called them “Shree Anna” for their miraculous benefits. Be it a 9-to-5 employee, student or homemaker, millets have nutritional benefits for everyone. Its dual benefits of being cultivated as food and fodder are an exceptional tool to polish the country’s economy. There cannot be enough reasons to add the superfood to our cuisine again.

The humble food diversity is the essence of India. Here, there is a massive diversity in climatic conditions, traditions, rituals, languages, beliefs, food, culture, costumes, and much more. Millets are perfect for every region and grow pesticide-free giving less stress to the farmers. It does not require much maintenance like other grains or food items and hence is the humble food on the Indian palate.

Packed with macronutrients like protein and fiber, millets help keep up with the digestive system. In hot and humid places like the west of India, there are often issues like water scarcity and it is difficult to keep up with the diet and overall health. The magical grains are perfect for such conditions. It provides sustainable energy and ample nutrition that makes a person feel heavy for long hours. Even on fasting days and occasions, millet can prove to be the best substitute for cheap adulterated food items available in the market. There are millets for every season: Jowar, Raagi, Bajra, Ramdana, Cheena, and Saama are some of the popular ones.



stitute for cheap adulterated food items available in the market. There are millets for every season: Jowar, Raagi, Bajra, Ramdana, Cheena, and Saama are some of the popular ones.

Boundless benefits

As discussed above, there are a plethora of health benefits that one can grab by consuming millet as a part of routine meals. Cravings are a big culprit in making disastrous eating mistakes and stress eating too! What can be done to tackle these? Does feeling full by consuming superfoods can help? But that is not enough for people to realise the importance of keeping junk at bay. Let us help you know some amazing facts about consuming Shree Anna: Millets can eradicate the beginning, ongoing, or possibilities of suffering from obesity and diabetes. These are gluten-free with a low glycemic index and high dietary fiber and antioxidants. Protein, essential fatty acids, dietary fiber, B-Vitamins, iron zinc, potassium, and magnesium are some of the essential components of millet that help protect against nutritional deficiency among children and



THERE ARE A PLETHORA OF HEALTH BENEFITS THAT ONE CAN ENJOY BY CONSUMING MILLET AS A PART OF ROUTINE MEALS. CRAVINGS ARE A BIG CULPRIT IN CREATING DISASTROUS EATING HABITS

women. They also support smallholders and marginal farmers to deal with climate change in drylands

Millets have been in our traditional way before diet shortcuts were introduced. Packaged food, no matter how good the brand you use to fill your tummy up, is not going to fill any nutritional gaps for one’s mental as well as physical health. Most of our diseases and issues are genetically forwarded to the next generation and by consuming junk and irrelevant food items we somehow pass our troubles to our children. There are many superfoods like millet that need more space in your kitchen for healthy well-being.

This is what the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN has to say about millets: As the global agrifood systems face challenges to feed an ever-growing global population, resilient cereals like millets provide an affordable and nutritious option, and efforts need to be scaled-up to promote their cultivation. “Millets can play an important role and contribute to our collective efforts to achieve sustainable development, eliminate hunger,

adapt to climate change, promote biodiversity, and transform agrifood systems,” FAO Director-General QU Dongyu has said.

India is betting big on millets. The Centre and State Governments are going to work together to promote millets in 2023. The Central Ministries, States and Indian embassies have been allotted a focused month to endorse the International Year of Millets (IYM) and spread awareness about the benefits of the grain. The United Nations has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 kicks off.

Last year, the United Nations declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets on the initiative of the Indian Government. The Narendra Modi Government’s proposal was backed by 72 other countries. The Prime Minister has insisted on making the International Year of Millets a ‘people’s movement’ while positioning India as the ‘global hub for millets’.

(The writer is the Executive Director and CEO of NextG Apex India. The views expressed are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

YOGI SHOWS THE WAY

Sir — Every Government makes a number of public welfare policies with a view to delivering on the poll goods and addressing thereby the problems common men are generally faced with but the implementation thereof always rests with the officials concerned. Most of the time, the latter carry a lethargic or lackadaisical approach towards the compliance of election promises made earlier. So, the common people have to bear the brunt of it, leading to the Government’s public image taking a severe beating.

Hence, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, during his Janta Darshan programme at his constituency Gorakhpur, reading the riot act to his officials against any negligence in solving people’s problems, comes as a shot in the arm for public welfare. Arguably, the administration assumes a great deal of significance in the implementation of the Government’s schemes for public welfare. Hence, their priority must be to sincerely listen to everyone’s problems and accordingly find timely and pragmatic solutions to the issues, or otherwise the recalcitrant ones may have to face the music. Given that the officials are constitutionally armed with a lot of powers, they are already in a position to dispose of public grievances on their own volition, should they want.

Azhaz Ali Khan | Rampur

DON’T IGNORE KASHMIRI PANDITS

Sir — Kashmiri Pandit employees are agitating for the last 290 days for the genuine and legitimate demand of their relocation to Jammu, keeping in view the prevailing situation in Kashmir. These protesting package employees are apprehensive about their safety and security in Kashmir amid targeted killings and are in the grip of fear psychosis as threat letters are being issued to them by various terrorist organisations. These hapless employees are now caught between life and employment and are unable to resume their duties in Kashmir because

Drunk on power



Shock waves were felt across Tamil Nadu when news broke out of a 29-year-old Indian Army soldier, Lance Naik M Prabhu, being lynched by a DMK councillor in Pochampally, Krishnagiri district. Chief Minister MK Stalin and Rahul Gandhi’s silence against the crime of the municipal councillor and his family members is deafening. It proves that politicians make a hue and cry only when any harm is caused to their own party workers, else

they are totally insensitive to the death of others, including soldiers. It is even more shocking that the police not only tried to water down the case, but also allowed the neta to escape.

Video footage and the scale of injuries inflicted on the soldier clearly reveal that it was a premeditated murder. What is more baffling is that both DMK leaders and top police brass in Tamil Nadu refused to consider the brutal incident as murder. It was only after pressure from all quarters that the murder charge was added to the FIR two days after the incident and police probe commenced. It is well known that the law & order situation under the DMK regime has been at its worst and, as such, police trying to shield the accused DMK leader did not come as a surprise. It’s time for Stalin to take the matter seriously and bring the guilty to justice.

KR Srinivasan | Secunderabad

of security threats. Despite listening to the woes and pain of these protesting employees, the Government has stopped their salaries and now these employees are on the brink of starvation.

As a confidence building measure, it’s time for the Centre that it should immediately release their withheld salaries on the eve of Mahashivratri and a dialogue be initiated at the earliest with these protesting package employees. The Government must not suppress, ignore and overlook the genuine demands of these protesting package employees as they have always contributed towards the nation’s development and also supported other national policies while performing their duties in Kashmir.

Vivek Koul | Jammu

SPILLING THE BEANS

Sir — After the Chetan Sharma sting operation was made public, the BCCI chief selector resigned from his post. Sharma had revealed that players took injections to expedite injury recovery and improve their chances of selection. This shocking revelation has caused a stir in

the cricketing world, raising questions about the integrity of the selection process and player health. Sharma divulged that there had been a clash of egos between former captain Virat Kohli and former BCCI president Sourav Ganguly. He suggested that Rohit would not be the captain for much longer, as Hardik Pandya is seen as the future.

He admitted to having given opportunities to 15-20 players on the team, including Surya Kumar Yadav, Ishan Kishan, Shubman Gill, Arshdeep Singh and Deepak Hooda. It is clear that the BCCI’s top brass have not taken kindly to Chetan being caught in the sting operation, but this incident can have a long-lasting effect on the relationship among the media, the Indian team and the selectors. It could be a defining moment in the history of Indian cricket as it could lead to a new era of transparency and accountability. Indian cricket must remember to stay off dirty politics.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

If Meghalaya is led by a double-engine BJP Government, I can assure you that there will be fast-paced development across sectors.

Union Home Minister — Amit Shah

We seek competition, not conflict with China...We’re not looking for a new Cold War.

US President — Joe Biden

I was always quite amused by the accusations of obscenity as I did not and do not find anything obscene about the human body.

Actor — Zeenat Aman

Pakistan remains the host of the major tournament and India could be offered to play its matches in the UAE where some games will be held.

Pakistan Cricket Board Chief — Najam Sethi

If the Indian legal system has to move away from the tag of being an Old Boys’ Club, the arbitration space can add heft to the mission to provide equal opportunity — to men, women, and them.

Chief Justice of India — DY Chandrachud

FIRST COLUMN

ANIMATION IN SCHOOLS IS QUITE EFFECTIVE

As part of curriculum, it helps kids learn complicated concepts faster



SOURAV MONDAL

As we go toward a digital-first future, technology is becoming increasingly vital in many aspects of life. Education has also been one of the most technologically advanced fields, with tremendous development in edtech, particularly after post covid. AR and VR have been at the forefront of edtech technology, mostly in classroom and hybrid learning, thanks to animation. This is something that is here to stay, and it is also expected to grow as there is a greater emphasis on STEM education and a variety of other immersive tools to help children learn and become familiar with technology.

However, when it comes to deep learning abilities, scientific study suggests that actively and practically executing a strategy may help it keep in the memory for a longer period of time than merely memorising it. Our brains are designed to interpret correlations between objects, making understanding simple. As a result, it's impossible to ignore the importance of visual information in receiving, processing, and retaining new information. Pictures are processed in the brain 60,000 times faster than words.

Animation is one of the most effective ways to make education more entertaining and participatory. Visual and verbal communication also increases student retention.



An important aspect of animation in education is its impact on students' visual perception. Modern students typically stray from the class due to their short attention spans and struggle to grasp the material. On the other hand, brief animated videos only cover crucial material, while grabbing learners' attention. As a consequence, learners acquire knowledge and skills through succinct visual representations.

Complicated topics are presented in simple graphics in animated eLearning videos. Additionally, people will most likely watch an animated video again if they find it interesting.

The use of images and music makes learning more interactive and vibrant. Students interact with the course material and quickly understand the lesson. Through animation, virtual reality is utilised in education to convey complex concepts. AI and VR together provide flexible learning of complicated concepts. For instance, it is usually too dangerous to conduct scientific experiments in actual environments. Even though these trials are a crucial part of learning, they take time to complete in real-time.

Students may do experiments that might otherwise be unsafe thanks to animation in the classroom. Videos made for virtual reality settings accurately portray the results of genuine studies.

Another instance is the use of 3D animation to teach students about mathematical geometrical formations. Teachers can use 3D animation to demonstrate geometrical ideas and their applications in real-world situations. It may also draw attention to a range of historical events to make history enjoyable to learn.

Teachers can train many children with the help of a single animated video over the course of a sizable length of time. Animations improve education and lead to better learning results. A little imagination and inspiration may help animation perform at its best. There are several ways that using animation in education may help both teachers and students. It not only helps students learn, but it also gives teachers the freedom to use a range of teaching strategies.

For instance, they may locate an animated movie about a subject right away and show it to the kids to help them understand it better. Many instructional methods focus on the total development of pupils while using cutting-edge teaching-learning tools. The learning experience is also continually being improved through developments in virtual reality and artificial intelligence.

(The author is Founder and CEO, Ssoftoons Entertainment and Ssoftoons Institute)

Not prudent to cross fiscal ‘Laxman Rekha’



SUMET BHASIN

Indian States must learn from the experience of our neighbours Pakistan and Sri Lanka and heed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for fiscal sagacity

Pakistan has now been abandoned by its donors. Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif knocked at the doors of all the donors in the recent weeks. He went to Saudi Arabia. Sharif rushed to Beijing to congratulate Xi Jinping when he took the third term as the general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party. He went to Washington and Dubai. Turkey has spurned him. At last, Pakistan is now signing on the dotted lines to secure a \$1.2 billion tranche loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The foreign currency reserves of Pakistan is now below \$3 billion. Pakistan is not left with enough foreign currency to meet three months of imports. Offices and commercial establishments now down their shutters by the dusk in Pakistan. Electricity at home is a luxury. Buying petrol and diesel now is a sign of the richness of the people.

As long as dollars flowed into Pakistan because of the largess of the donors, Islamabad indulged in excesses. Economic prudence was foreign to the policy makers and the political establishment. The people were addicted to not paying for the electricity consumption. Electricity subsidies touched all sections of the society. Military, farmers, businessmen, politicians and others indulged in the freebies of Pakistan.

Little more than a year ago, the US left Afghanistan and also left behind a message to Pakistan that Washington would now give a damn to its geo-strategic blackmailing. Pakistan's former patrons too learnt lessons that they had burnt their cash enough in the Pakistani black hole. China never forgives those who fritter away its money. The pipeline of easy money to leverage a life of indulgence even while there was no healthy revenue ran dry in a span of one year.

Pakistan has gone for a steep hike in the electricity charges. The government there has imposed several surcharges across the electricity consumption groups. Now, all will have to pay for the electricity at rates, which would be much higher than normal market pricing.

Sri Lanka also has decided to hike the electricity rates. The Sri Lankan government on Thursday announced a 66 per cent hike in the electricity rates. Inflation in Pakistan and Sri Lanka is riding rockets. Inflation in Sri Lanka is now over 56 per cent. Inflation numbers for Pakistan are now redundant, as viral videos from the Islamic nation show that the people are indulging in street fights for a piece of bread.

Before Pakistan went broke financially, Sri Lanka had declared default on the servicing of the foreign debts. Pakistan is on the verge of default. Both the nations are begging the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for bail out. The international lending agency has dug in its heels. It



THE CURRENT GENERATIONS OF PAKISTAN AND SRI LANKA ARE PAYING FOR THE SINS OF THEIR PREDECESSORS. THIS AFFIRMS THE SAYING THAT FREEBIES ARE TAXES ON FUTURE GENERATIONS. WHAT ONE CANNOT AFFORD, ONE SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM

(The author is a policy analyst)



is asking for the major lending nations to give no objection certificates. It's evident that Sri Lanka and Pakistan frittered away their financial autonomy with the recklessness of the politics of freebies. The current generations of Pakistan and Sri Lanka are paying for the sins of their predecessors. This affirms the saying that freebies are taxes on the future generations. What one cannot afford should stay away from the wish list.

At the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central government has so far organized two extensive meetings of all the state chief secretaries on the need to embark on the path of fiscal prudence. The backdrop of the two meetings was the report of the Reserve Bank of India on the state of finances of the state governments. The report revealed that the finances of a number of states are in tatters. They are in similar boats as is the case with Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Under no circumstances, India can allow any of the states in the country to go off on the lines of Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Such a prospect will be disastrous. At a time when India is marching fast to become the fourth largest economy in the world and hit the bull's eye with a \$5 trillion economy size, it will be criminal on the part of any of the states to pull the country back with fiscal recklessness.

Indeed, the RBI report portrayed that the fiscal health of Punjab, Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar and a few other states are in dire need of surgical operations

to remove the cancerous fats from the fiscal body. PM Modi built the plank for fiscal prudence after threadbare brainstorming at the two-day Dharamshala conference of the chief secretaries to the meeting of the Governing Council of the NITI Aayog in the national capital. All the chief ministers were sensitized about the imports of the report of the NITI Aayog. Even at such a solemn occasion, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann was seen as cold to the sane ideas of fiscal prudence. He sought Rs one lakh crore support from the Central government. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab was so audacious in its brazen freebies that the state sought assistance from the Centre to fund its reckless populism.

The virus of freebies is spreading fast. India must invent a vaccine against the virus of freebies. Scientists who can make the inventions are the lawmakers in Parliament, judges in the Supreme Court and members of the Election Commission. They owe to the future generations of India that a vaccine against the virus of freebies is not only invented fast but administered to the errant state government and political parties.

If there is a need, a financial emergency may also be declared to hammer the fiscal discipline on the straying states. Top economists have warned of catastrophic consequences if the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) is revived. Even the likes of Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former deputy

chairman of the Planning Commission, has minced no words in slamming the move of the state governments to implement the OPS. He has warned of unprecedented hardships. Yet, Congress governments in Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan have gone ahead to implement the OPS.

All the gains made by the hard work by late Atal Bihari Vajpayee in unveiling the pension reform and also the unveiling of the New pension Scheme, which were accepted by the government employees wholeheartedly, is being sought to be negated by Congress in its desperation to grab power in states by all means. This is dangerous. It has to be checked right now. If not, the future generation will never forgive.

Indeed, Congress, the AAP and others seek to take shelter by hard-selling that their freebies are welfare measures. Such lies must be countered by all, irrespective of their political affiliations. Freebies are dole outs offered to the people without making any distinctions. Welfare measures are always targeted, and once saturation is achieved, the window is also shut. Freebies are not welfarism. Freebies are political corruption.

Parliament must enact a law to deal with the political corruption of freebies. The Supreme Court and the Election Commission must also step in to help Parliament evolve a mechanism which will sanitise any attempt to sell freebies to the people. Until then, a financial emergency will be a welcome step.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

PRIME MINISTER MODI WILL HAVE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM FOREIGN INVESTORS AND PARLIAMENT ON ALLEGATIONS THE ADANI GROUP IS FACING.
— BILLIONAIRE INVESTOR
GEORGE SOROS



SOROS WANTS TO DESTROY INDIAN DEMOCRACY AND WANTS SOME HAND-PICKED PEOPLE TO RUN THE GOVERNMENT HERE... IT MUST BE CONDEMNED.
— UNION MINISTER
SMRITI Z IRANI

Bullying in digital age must be tackled effectively

Bullying, once restricted to the school premises or neighbourhood, has now moved into the online world and become a major issue

Learning is most effective when communication and collaboration are encouraged. At the same time, technology too has been a major factor in education from its inception. Today, it defines how we live and interact with one another. Whether we like it or not, technology is everywhere.

With the advancement in the field of digital technology, youth is more attracted towards social media, messaging platforms, gaming platforms and mobile phones. There is also an accompanying fastest growing digital crime termed as cyber bullying.

Bullying, once restricted to the school or neighbourhood, has now moved into the online world. Cyber bullying or cyber harassing is often termed as



SAKSHI SETHI

electronically mediated behaviours among peers. It is often a repeated behaviour aimed to scare, anger or shame a target. Posting hurtful comments, using online platforms to spread false accusations, hacking into people's account or websites to make fun, impersonating someone or sending messages on behalf of them or through fake accounts, sending threatening messages followed by stalking just for the sake of viewing someone or commenting upon some incidences anonymously are some of the instances that lead to cyber bullying.

Today almost 61 per cent of the world's population has its account on social media and as the number increases there is a surge in cyber bullying too. Anyone can be a victim of

cyber bullying, as it's hard to trace and control due to anonymity. It can even create a significant mental and emotional burden on the victims.

When it happens, the victim feels as if he or she is being attacked from everywhere and seems that there is no escape. The effects last long and can affect the victim mentally, emotionally and even physically. At times, it can even lead to suicidal attempts too.

In recent research, it was found that the children were bullied mostly on social media and messaging platforms, with Meta having the highest rate despite several measures being taken by the platform. As per an UNICEF poll, it has been found that around 33 per cent of the youngsters are reported as victims worldwide.

The victim loses confidence and motivation level to such an extent that he doesn't feel like doing anything and gradually starts living in isolation from people and society that provide love and care. This perpetuates negative feelings and thoughts resulting in adverse effects on mental health and wellbeing. Moreover, it has even been found that one in five skips school due to the fear of cyber bullying and violence.

Today everyone, especially the youth, are spending more time online due to Covid-19 having instant access to cell phones, tablets or computers, which have opened the door to exciting new ways of connecting, interacting and learning. However, these new modes of communication also

present new challenges for parents. Even though one third of teens have experienced cyber bullying, parents are surprisingly unconcerned.

Parents must show their concern towards their kids by proactively keeping a check on them, asking them if anyone has done or said anything unkind to them. These small efforts will definitely make a huge difference in protecting the child from the devastating effects of cyber bullying and ensuring safety online. Also, the child will feel safe and confident in sharing the information or incidents with their parents without any hesitation.

Even adults are also the victims of cyber bullying. Since remote working has become a trend of recent, the employers face this concern among its

employees. If unaddressed, such type of bullying can even infiltrate a company's culture leading to problems with efficiency and effectiveness. Though the term is much like face-to-face bullying, yet cyber bullying leaves digital footprints that can be useful to provide evidence and stop abuse.

If someone is harassing or bullying online, the first and the foremost step is to stop online communication and block the bully followed by saving the screenshots of harmful comments or messages and then formally reporting the behaviour of bullying on the platform itself. In situations of immediate danger, the victim must contact the police or her emergency services. Most importantly, break the cycle to pass

on cyber bullying messages about others. Communicate with someone you trust- be it parents, teachers, counselor, a close family member or any trusted person.

Remember, to take action, think twice before posting or sharing any personal information, keep on changing passwords often and try not to share it with anyone.

Cyber bullying has become one of the pervasive issues in our community of late. Even the Government has launched several helplines, especially for the children and women who require assistance related to this. The assistance so provided is free and confidential. Cyber bullying is one of the most significant problems that needs to be eradicated.

(The author is an educator)

Key moments in a year of Russia-Ukraine war

AP ■ KYIV

The war in Ukraine that began a year ago has killed thousands, forced millions to flee their homes, reduced entire cities to rubble and has fuelled fears the confrontation could slide into an open conflict between Russia and NATO. A look at some of the main events in the conflict.

FEBRUARY
On February 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin launches an invasion of Ukraine from the north, east and south. He says the "special military operation" is aimed at "demilitarization" and "denazification" of the country to protect ethnic Russians, prevent Kyiv's NATO membership and to keep it in Russia's "sphere of influence."

Ukraine and the West say it's an illegal act of aggression against a country with a democratically elected government and a Jewish president whose relatives were killed in the Holocaust.

Russian troops quickly reach Kyiv's outskirts, but their attempts to capture the capital and other cities in the northeast meet stiff resistance. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy records a video out-



side his headquarters to show he is staying and remains in charge. On March 2, Russia claims control of the southern city of Kherson.

In the opening days of March, Russian forces also seize the rest of the Kherson region and occupy a large part of the neighbouring Zaporizhzhia region, including the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear

Power Plant, Europe's largest. The Russian army soon gets stuck near Kyiv, and its convoys - stretching along highways leading to the Ukrainian capital - become easy prey for Ukrainian artillery and drones.

Moscow announces the withdrawal of forces from Kyiv and other areas March 29, saying it will focus on the eastern industrial heartland of the Donbas, where Russia-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian forces since 2014 fol-

lowing the illegal annexation of Crimea. The Russian pullback from Kyiv reveals hundreds of bodies of civilians in mass graves or left in the streets of the town of Bucha, many of them bearing signs of torture in scenes that prompt world leaders to say Russia should be held accountable for possible war crimes.

On April 9, a Russian missile strike on a train station in the eastern city of Kramatorsk kills 52 civilians and wounds

over 100. Intense battles rage for the strategic port of Mariupol on the Sea of Azov, and Russian air strikes and artillery bombardment reduce much of it to ruins. On April 13, the missile cruiser Moskva, the flagship of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, is hit by Ukrainian missiles and sinks the next day, damaging national pride.

MAY
On May 16, Ukrainian defenders of the giant Azovstal steel mill, the last remaining Ukrainian stronghold in Mariupol, agree to surrender to Russian forces after a nearly three-month siege. Mariupol's fall cuts Ukraine off from the Azov coast and secures a land corridor from the Russian border to Crimea. On May 18, Finland and Sweden submit their applications to join NATO in a major blow to Moscow over the expansion of the military alliance.

JUNE
More Western weapons flow into Ukraine, including U.S.-supplied HIMARS multiple rocket launchers. On June 30, Russian troops pull back from Snake Island, located off the Black Sea port of Odesa and seized in the opening days of the invasion.

JULY
On July 22, Russia and

Ukraine, with mediation by Turkey and the United Nations, agree on a deal to unblock supplies of grain stuck in Ukraine's Black Sea ports, ending a standoff that threatened global food security.

On July 29, a missile strike hits a prison in the Russia-controlled eastern town of Olenivka where Ukrainian soldiers captured in Mariupol were held, killing at least 53. Ukraine and Russia trade blame for the attack.

AUGUST
On August 9, powerful explosions strike an air base in Crimea. More blasts hit a power substation and ammunition depots there a week later, signalling the vulnerability of the Moscow-annexed Black Sea peninsula that Russia has used as a major supply hub for the war. Ukraine's top military officer later acknowledges that the attacks on Crimea were launched by Kyiv's forces.

On August 20, Darya Dugina, the daughter of Russian nationalist ideologist Alexander Dugin, dies in a car bomb explosion outside Moscow that the Russian authorities blame on Ukraine.

SEPTEMBER
On September 6, the Ukrainian forces launch a surprise counteroffensive in the northeastern Kharkiv region,

quickly forcing Russia to pull back from broad areas held for months. On September 21, Putin orders mobilization of 300,000 reservists, an unpopular move that prompts hundreds of thousands of Russian men to flee to neighbouring countries to avoid recruitment.

At the same time, Russia hastily stages illegal "referendums" in Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions on whether to become part of Russia. The votes are widely dismissed as a sham by Ukraine and the West.

On September 30, Putin signs documents to annex the four regions at a Kremlin ceremony.

OCTOBER
On October 8, a truck laden with explosives blows up on the bridge linking Crimea to Russia's mainland in an attack that Putin blames on Ukraine. Russia responds with missile strikes on Ukraine's power plants and other key infrastructure.

After the first wave of attacks on October 10, the barrage continues on a regular basis in the months that follow, resulting in blackouts and power rationing across the country.

NOVEMBER
On November 9, Russia announces a pullback from

the city of Kherson under a Ukrainian counteroffensive, abandoning the only regional centre Moscow captured, in a humiliating retreat for the Kremlin.

DECEMBER
On December 5, the Russian military says Ukraine used drones to target two bases for long-range bombers deep inside Russian territory. Another strike takes places later in the month, underlining Ukraine's readiness to up the ante and revealing gaps in Russian defences.

On December 21, Zelenskyy visits the United States on his first trip abroad since the war began, meeting with President Joe Biden to secure Patriot air defence missile systems and other weapons and addressing Congress.

JANUARY
On January 1, just moments into the New Year, scores of freshly mobilized Russian soldiers are killed by a Ukrainian missile strike on the city of Makiivka. Russia's Defence Ministry says 89 troops were killed, while Ukrainian officials put the death toll in the hundreds.

After months of ferocious fighting, Russia declares the capture of the salt-mining town of Soledar on January 12, although Kyiv does not acknowledge it until days later.

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
Engineering Department
Tender Notice
Tender Reference No. GNDU/ENGG/2023/02/01-06
The Engineering Department of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar invites online bids for 6 different types of Civil Works.
Closing date & time: 06-03-2023 upto 4.00 pm
For details log on to www.eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note: Any corrigendum/ Addendum to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.

Incharge Division-I
Engineering Department
Guru Nanak Dev University,
Amritsar

Date of Publish: 18-02-2023
NA/12/14502/2022/21302 Dt. 21/7/2023

FORM A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016) FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF LUMATA DIGITAL INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED	
RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1 Name of corporate debtor	Lumata Digital India Private Limited
2 Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	23-11-2009
3 Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	RoC-Delhi
4 Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U74900HR2009FTC039730
5 Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	Registered Office: 16 th Floor, Tower-A, DLF Building No-9, DLF Cyber City, Gurgaon-122002, Haryana, India Other Place of Business : Unit No.171, 7 th Floor, Tower A, The Corenthum, Sector 62, NOIDA-201301, (UP)
6 Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	14.02.2023 (NCLT order received on 16-02-2023)
7 Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	13-08-2023 (within 180 days from Insolvency Commencement date)
8 Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Dinesh Kumar IBBI/IPA-001/IP00860/2017-18/11442
9 Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Room No. 7, First Floor, Chatarbhuj Leelawati Trust Building, Geeta Mandir Road, Panipat-132103, Haryana. e.mail:dkgc2004@yahoo.com
10 Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	Room No. 7, First Floor, Chatarbhuj Leelawati Trust Building, Geeta Mandir Road, Panipat-132103, Haryana. e.mail:dkgc2004@gmail.com
11 Last date for submission of claims	28-02-2023
12 Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	Name the class(es) : NIL
13 Names of Insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorised Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	Not Applicable
14 (a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorized representatives are available at:	(a)Web link: http://ibbi.gov.in/download (b): Not Applicable

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of the Lumata Digital India Private Limited on 14-02-2023.

The creditors of Lumata Digital India Private Limited, are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 28-02-2023 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.

The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means.

A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of authorised representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No.13 to act as authorised representative of the class (specify class) in Form CA (Not Applicable).

Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties. -sd-

Date :18-02-2023
Place :Panipat
Interim Resolution Professional
IBBI/IPA-001/IP00860/2017-18/11442

JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE
DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU
0191-2561578 (O), 0191-2542000 (F),
Email :- sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

LOOK OUT NOTICE
SP City North, Jammu vide communication No. SPCN/23/Look out/2800-803 dated 13.02.2023 intimated that one fully decomposed dead body, cannot be identified whether Male or Female found/recovered from Tawi area near Mount Baba Mandir Panjritthi, Jammu. Accordingly, Inquest proceedings U/S 174 Cr.P.C., was initiated at PP Panjritthi vide DDR No. 29 dated 09.02.2023 and dead body was shifted to mortuary room of GMCII, Jammu.

For identification, said decomposed dead body is shifted to GMCII, Jammu and is required to be published on daily newspapers for identification / Public in general, having any clue related to the dead body. If any missing report is lodged, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers.

Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-
1. DPO, Jammu :- 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D :- sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu :- 0191-2542000
4. SP City North :- 0191-2547038
5. SDPO City North :- 0191-2566621
6. Landline of P/S Pacca Danga :- 0191-2548610

For Super Superintendent of Police,
Jammu
DIP/J-15678/22

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Dharmendra Sharma is the owner of Plot No. C-54, Property Bearing No. IX-2325, area measuring 67 sq. yds., out of Khassra No. 726, with terrace rights. Situated in the area of village Seelampur, in the abadi of Gali No.5, Dharmpura, Gandhi Nagar, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi, vide registered General Power of Attorney dated 17.12.2002 (Doc No. 47199), registered with SRO Delhi along with agreement to sale and Will. All Persons are hereby informed that Mr. Balvinder Singh & Mr. Gurdeep Singh is purchasing the above-mentioned property from Mr. Dharmendra Sharma by way of registered Sale Deed and they are mortgaging the said property with Fullerton India Home Finance Company Limited. General public hereby informed that, if anybody has any charge/ interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Mrs. Praseon Lata, Advocate
SG Associates (Law Firm)
Unit No 7, Basement, Plot No C 78, Sector 2, Noida
UP 201301, E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com
Ph: 7011172764, 8130200837

PUBLIC NOTICE
“Notice is hereby given to the public that the medical records, of patients admitted between January, 2014 and December 2015, containing original copy of patients’ files that includes investigations, treatment and discharge papers shall be destroyed as per **INDIAN MEDICAL COUNCIL Chapter 1.3** (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics Regulations, 2002-amended in December -2009) during condemnation process by 1st April,2023. All persons are hereby informed to take their respective records, if required. If anyone requires these medical records, then the concerned person has to inform the Medical Superintendent in writing at Sahara Hospital within 15 days from publication of this notice.”

24x7 helpdesk:
0522-6780001
Viraj Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow

SAHARA HOSPITAL
Cutting Through Care
www.saharahospitals.com

UJVN LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135- 2763808 & Fax: 0135-2763808
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866 Website: www.ujvnll.com

Tender Notice
Dt. 16.02.2023
Office of the Executive Engineer (M&G), Sharda Power House, Lohiahead, Khatima, invites sealed tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-
Name of work/supply/services etc.Cleaning of trash rack with the help of labours and disposal of debris from collecting pit of Sharda Power House, Lohiahead.
Estimated cost-Rs.6,72,672/-(Rs. Six Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Two Only plus GST extra as applicable.
Date of availability of bid document on website-16.02.2023 at 16:00 Hrs
Last date for submission of tender-13.03.2023 upto 16.00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>
Executive Engineer (M&G)
“AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY”

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135- 2763808 & Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnll.com

पत्र सं. 164
e-Tender Notice दिनांक: 17.02.2023
Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), UJVN Ltd., Kalagarh, Pauri Garhwal, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No. : 22/EE(Civil)/Kalagarh/Pauri Garhwal/2022-23
Name of Work : "Providing & Laying new Granite Stone and Kota Stone flooring in Ramganga Power House Kalagarh."
Estimated Cost : Rs. 56,89,340.73 (GST extra)
Date of availability of bid Document : From 17:00 hrs of 17.02.2023
on website
Last Date for submission of Tender : Up to 15:00 hrs of 15.03.2023
on website
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>
Executive Engineer (Civil)
“AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY”

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Office of the Principal Chief Materials Manager
Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001
Mail ID : salenr365@gmail.com

No: 117/S/Auction Programme/Sale/2022-23 **Date: 17.02.2023**

Extra date in Auction Program of Northern Railway
Following extra dates of the auction program for the month of February 2023 will be as under:

Sr. No.	Depot	Extra date for e-auction
1.	Sr.DMM/LKO 0522-2234756	27.02.2023
2.	Sr.DMM/FZR 01632-244154	27.02.2023
3.	Sr.DMM/UMB 0171-2611203	27.02.2023
4.	Sr.DMM/MB 0591-2413141	27.02.2023
5.	Sr.DMM/DLI 011-23365311	27.02.2023

All other auction dates advised earlier will remain same. For further details regarding e-auction please visit Railway website 'www.ireps.gov.in.'


527/2023

(Om Kumar)
Dy. CMM/S&P
For Principal Chief Materials Manager

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Russia, Belarus discuss military, economic ties



MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted neighboring ally Belarus' leader on Friday for talks on expanding military and economic cooperation amid the fighting in Ukraine.

Russia used Belarusian territory to send troops into Ukraine nearly a year ago at the start of what the Kremlin calls its "special military operation."

Russia has maintained troops and weapons in Belarus and the two countries have regularly conducted joint drills as part of their military alliance.

Speaking at the start of his talks with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, Putin proposed to discuss security issues, military cooperation and ways to further bolster economic ties.

Putin noted that Belarus has preserved Soviet-era industrial assets, adding that it offers good opportunities for joint manufacturing programs.

"By pooling our efforts we will create synergy," Putin said. "It could be very efficient in some sectors and bring good results for both Belarus and Russia." Russia has been a major sponsor of Belarus' Soviet-style economy, which relies on cheap Russian energy and loans.

The Kremlin also has offered staunch political support to Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus with an iron hand for nearly three decades, helping him weather months of massive protests triggered by his re-election in an August 2020 vote that the opposition and the West denounced as rigged. **AP**

Zelenskyy pushes need for speed to avoid more Ukrainian casualty

MUNICH: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged Western allies Friday to quicken their military support for Ukraine, warning at a major international security conference that delays would play into Russia's hand as the invasion approaches its first anniversary.

"There is no alternative to speed, because it's speed that life depends on," Zelenskyy told the Munich Security Conference in Germany.

Ukraine is depending on Western weapons to thwart Russian President Vladimir Putin's ambition of securing control of large areas of the country, in what has become a test of foreign governments' resolve amid increasing financial costs.

About 40 heads of state and government, as well as politicians and security experts from almost 100 countries, including the United States, Europe and



China, were due to attend the three-day gathering. In his plea for more Western weapons, Zelenskyy compared Ukraine's struggle against the Russian invasion to the biblical fight between David and Goliath, saying his country had David's courage but needed help in getting the sling. "It's not just about Ukraine."

The point is Goliath must lose, and there is no alternative to this," the Ukrainian leader said by video link. "Because the Kremlin can break the security and peace of all who are represented here in Munich." **AP**



Russia to test new hypersonic missile in drills with China and South Africa

AP ■ JOHANNESBURG

Russia, China and South Africa are set to begin naval drills off South Africa's Indian Ocean coast Friday in a demonstration of the three countries' close ties amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's tense relationship with the West.

The 10 days of exercises, named Moisi II, will coincide with the first anniversary of a Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24.

A Russian frigate, the Admiral Gorshkov, arrived in Cape Town earlier this week sporting the letters Z and V on its sides, letters that mark Russian weapons on the front lines in Ukraine and are used as a patriotic symbol in Russia.

In protest, a small yacht flying Ukraine's flag sailed by the Russian frigate in Cape Town's harbor. South African protesters opposed to the exercises are expected to demonstrate at the Russian Consulate in Cape Town on Friday.

The arrival of the Admiral Gorshkov has stirred considerable controversy because it is armed with the latest Zircon hypersonic missiles, a weapon that Russia says can penetrate any missile defenses to strike targets at sea and on land.

Ukrainian refugees safe, but not at peace, after year of war with Russia



AP ■ WARSAW (POLAND)

Months after Russian forces occupied southern Ukraine's Kherson province last year, they started paying visits to the home of a Ukrainian woman and her Russian husband.

They smashed their refrigerator and demanded possession of their car. One day, they seized the wife and her teenage daughter, put pillowcases over their heads and led them away.

The woman was locked up for days, her legs beaten with a hammer. The men accused her of revealing Russian soldiers' locations. They subjected her to electric shocks and bore down on her feet with the heels of their military boots until two of her toes broke. She heard screams nearby and feared they came from her daughter.

More than once, with a bag on her head and her hands tied, a weapon was pointed at her head. She'd feel the muzzle at her temple, and a man started counting. One. Two. Two and

a half. Then, a shot fired to the floor.

"Although at that moment, it seemed to me that it would be better in my head," she told The Associated Press, recounting the torture that lasted five days, counted by the sliver of sunlight from a tiny window in the room. "The only thing that kept me strong was the awareness that my child was somewhere around."

The Russian officials eventually released the woman and her daughter, she said, and she made her way home. She took a long shower and packed a bag, and the two fled the occupied area - first to Russian-occupied Crimea and then to mainland Russia, from where they crossed by land into Latvia and finally Poland.

Her body was still bruised, and she could barely walk. But in December in Warsaw, she reunited with a son. And she and her daughter joined the refugees who have fled their homes since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

China scoffs at Biden’s no apology jibe over spy balloon shooting

Says cannot ask for talks while fuelling tensions

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Friday sharply reacted to US President Joe Biden's remarks defending his orders to shoot down a Chinese spy balloon and his assertion to "remain in communication" with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, saying that Washington cannot ask for talks while fuelling tensions and escalating the crisis.

By shooting down the Chinese spy balloon, Biden said the US has sent "a clear

message that the violation of our sovereignty was unacceptable. We'll act to protect our country and we did."

In his remarks at the White House on Thursday, his first one after a Chinese spy balloon was shot down in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of South Carolina on February 4, Biden said he expects to speak with his Chinese counterpart Xi on the issue that has increased the tensions between the US and China.

"And I hope we are going to get to the bottom of this, but I make no apologies for taking down that balloon," he said.

Responding to Biden's remarks at a press briefing in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said he has no infor-



mation on the likelihood of Biden-Xi talks as of now.

Wang said that "the unintended entry of Chinese airship into US airspace is an isolated

unexpected event but it is also a test to the US sincerity and capability to properly manage crisis to stabilise relations with China and sincerity to improve

relations with China."

"The US cannot ask for communication and dialogue fuelling tensions and escalating the crisis," he said, adding that he has no information on the likelihood of Biden-Xi talks.

He said the US needs to work with China in the same direction and manage differences.

"The US needs to work with China in the same direction, manage differences and properly handle the unexpected isolated incidents, avoid miscalculation and misunderstanding and bring the relations to the sound steady track of development," Wang said.

Biden said he expected to speak with Xi again, citing the importance of keeping US-China channels open to avoid

veering "into conflict".

He did not specify when the two presidents planned to speak next.

Biden said he waited to shoot down the balloon on February 4 – a week after it was detected in American airspace – to avoid jeopardising commercial flights or people

on the ground. He said its flight path ensured that it did not threaten national security, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

"We seek competition, not conflict with China," he told reporters, echoing sentiments conveyed last week in his State of the Union speech.

"We will compete and will responsibly manage that competition so that it doesn't veer into conflict. This episode underscores the importance of maintaining open lines of communication between our diplomats and our military professionals," he said.

3 objects shot down over North America appear to not be part of China's spy balloon op: US Prez

PTI ■ WASHINGTON



The three high-flying objects which were shot down over the American and Canadian airspace this month were not related to the Chinese spy balloon programme, but most likely tied to private companies, recreation, or research institutions, according to US President Joe Biden. Biden said this in his speech at the White House on Thursday, his first one after a Chinese spy balloon was shot down in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of South Carolina on February 4. Three other high-flying objects were shot down by American fighter jets - two in the US and one in Canada.

Biden reiterated the view of US officials that the huge balloon, which traversed the country at an altitude of about 40,000ft before being blown out of the sky by a US fighter jet over the Atlantic, was in fact used for spying.

"The US and Canadian military are seeking to recover the debris so they can learn more about these three objects. The intelligence community is still assessing all three incidences. They're reported to him daily

and will continue their urgent efforts to do so, and he will communicate that to the Congress," Biden said. "We don't yet know exactly what these three objects were, but nothing right now suggests they were related to China's spy balloon programme or that they were surveillance vehicles from any other country," he said. "The intelligence community's current assessment is that these three objects were most likely balloons tied to private companies, recreation, or research institutions studying weather or conducting other scientific research," Biden said.

By shooting down the Chinese spy balloon, Biden said the US has sent "a clear message that the violation of our sovereignty was unacceptable. We'll act to protect our country and we did."

Saudi wealth fund becomes biggest outside Nintendo investor

AP ■ DUBAI

A Saudi sovereign wealth fund now holds 8.26 per cent of the stock in the video game maker Nintendo, making it the largest outside investor in the Japanese gaming company, a company filing said Friday.

The investment comes as part of efforts by the kingdom's Public Investment Fund to diversify Saudi Arabia's economy away from oil, including billions already spent on video game firms.

The fund has been a major component in the plans of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, himself said to be an avid gamer.

However, the purchase of Nintendo and other gaming stocks also entangles the video game companies into the politics surrounding Saudi Arabia and its assertive 37-year-old crown prince. American intelligence agencies believe Prince Mohammed ordered the slaying of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018.

Increase security at Govt printer ahead of elections, Lanka EC directs police

PTI ■ COLOMBO



Sri Lanka's election commission has asked the police to step up security at the government printer where the ballot papers for the March 9 local elections are being printed.

In view of the election work, the government printer Gangani Liyanage has asked for a strength of 60 policemen to be deputed at her office round the clock for security.

The Election Commission chairperson Nimal Punchihewa told reporters that a letter addressed to the Inspector General of Police was sent on Thursday asking for an increase in the security arrangements.

Sri Lanka will hold the local council polls on March 9, the country's election commission announced in January, ending speculation that the election may be postponed again due to the prevailing economic crisis in the country.

The election commission formally announced on Friday that postal voting for the election would be rescheduled due to delays on the part of the government printer.

The postal voting was to have taken place on February 22, 23 and 24. The public officials on election duties are eligible to apply for postal or advance voting.

Liyanage said that she was short of funds to carry out printing as the treasury failed to provide her with sufficient funds due to the ongoing economic crisis.

The government printer said that she was caught in the middle of the election commission dictates and the order by way of a government circular which had banned all state institutions from carrying out services pending settlement of bills.

Protests hit multiple Iran cities for first time in weeks

AP ■ DUBAI



Protesters in Iran marched through the streets of multiple cities overnight in the most widespread demonstration in weeks amid the monthslong unrest that's gripped the Islamic Republic, online videos purported to show Friday.

The demonstrations, marking 40 days since Iran executed two men on charges related to the protests, show the continuing anger in the country. The protests, which began over the Sept. 16 death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini after her arrest by the country's morality police, have morphed into one of the most serious challenges to Iran's theocracy since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Videos showed demonstrations in Iran's capital, Tehran, as

well as in the cities of Arak, Isfahan, Izeh in Khuzestan province and Karaj, the group Human Rights Activists in Iran said. The Associated Press could not immediately verify the videos, many of which had been blurred or showed grainy night-time scenes.

In Iran's western Kurdish regions, online videos shared by the Hengaw Organization for

Human Rights showed burning roadblocks in Sanandaj, which has seen repeated demonstrations since Amini's death.

Hengaw shared one video that included digitally altered voices shouting: "Death to the Dictator!" That call has been repeatedly heard in the demonstrations, targeting Iran's 83-year-old Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Other

videos purportedly shot in Tehran had similar chants, as well as scenes of heavily protected riot police in the street.

Protesters also marched in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan province near Pakistan after Friday prayers, online videos showed. Anti-government demonstrations have been happening for months as well on Fridays in the restive province, which is a majority Sunni region. Its Baluch people long have complained about being treated as second-class citizens by Iran's Shiite rulers.

Iranian state media did not immediately acknowledge the demonstrations.

Since they began, at least 529 people have been killed in demonstrations, according to Human Rights Activists in Iran. Over 19,700 others have been

detained by authorities amid a violent crackdown trying to suppress the dissent. Iran for months has not offered any overall casualty figures, though the government seemed to acknowledge making "tens of thousands" arrests earlier this month.

The demonstrations had appeared to slow in recent weeks, in part due to the executions and crackdown, though protest cries could still be heard at night in some cities.

Forty-day commemorations for the dead are common in Iran and the wider Middle East. But they also can turn into cyclical confrontations between an increasingly disillusioned public and security forces that turn to greater violence to suppress them, as they had in the chaos leading up to Iran's 1979 revolution.

Turkish quake victims sleep in trains, tents, greenhouses

AP ■ SAMANDAG (TURKIYE)



Nearly two weeks after a massive earthquake levelled tens of thousands of buildings and displaced millions of people in Turkiye and Syria, many are still struggling to fulfil their basic needs and some are bedding down in tents, factories, train cars and greenhouses.

People pushed from their homes in the disaster zone described a wide range of conditions: Some were able to find regular hot showers, while others feared freezing to death.

The Turkish government and dozens of aid groups have launched a massive relief effort. The government said Wednesday that more than 5,400 shipping containers have been deployed as shelters and over 200,000 tents dispatched.

But it's facing a massive disaster. The government says at least 56,000 buildings, containing more than 225,000 homes, were either destroyed by the Feb. 6 quake or too damaged to be used. There is no official figure for the number of people displaced in Turkiye's side of the disaster region, which is home to some 14 million, or 16 per cent of the country's population.

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, Delhi
... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi
(1) TENDER NOTICE
Date: 18.02.2023
Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited for following jobs from all bidders

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & time of opening
CMC/BY/22-23/RS/Svs/VK/64	Renewal of Group Term Life and other Related Insurance Policies for the Employees of BYPL for the FY 2023-24	₹ 4.50 Crores	10.03.2023 15:00 HRS	10.03.2023 15:30 HRS
CMC/BY/22-23/RS/Svs/VK/65	Renewal of Various General Insurance Policies in BYPL for the FY 2023-24	₹ 7.50 Crores	10.03.2023 15:00 HRS	10.03.2023 16:00 HRS

Cost of Tender Document: Nil
For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying Requirements, Terms & Conditions, Purchase/Submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com Tenders BSES YAMUNA POWER LIMITED Open Tenders

(2) APPLICATION FOR VENDOR REGISTRATION in BYPL
Applications are invited for "new vendor registration and revalidation of existing vendor registration" on BSES portal <https://www.bsesdelhi.com/web/bypl/bypl-tenders> as on or before 31.03.2023. Vendors who have already applied in our portal after 15.12.2019 need not to resubmit their application.

Head (Contracts & Materials)
Regd. Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd., Shakti Kiran Building, Khardooma, Delhi-110032 |
CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525 TEL: 011-4124 7576 / 9224 | Fax-011-4124 7787 | Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

Piramal Capital & Housing Finance
Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal (Amit) Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai- 400 070. CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639. Website: www.piramalfinance.com
Branch Address : Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) – 400 602.

DEMAND NOTICE
Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) [Formerly known as Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act)]. In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with the interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s). From the date(s) mentioned below, the said Borrower(s) shall be deemed to have accepted, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount with NPA date	Property address
(LC No. 13100000772 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Tsering Dorjee (Borrower) Kunsang Tsering (Co Borrower 1) Potala Caterers (Co Borrower 2)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 4294871 /- ₹ Twenty Two lakh Ninety Four Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy One Only NPA (09-12-2022)	Unit No. C-0503, 5th Floor Plot No - Gh-001, Ridge Residency Sector-135, Noida Noida Uttar Pradesh - 201306
(LC No. 01400003406 of New Delhi Branch) Pankaj Kumar (Borrower) Heera Bain (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 1517962 /- ₹ Fifteen lakh Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Two Only NPA (09-10-2022)	Flat No-38, Single Storey Dda Janta Flat Pocket-3, Paschim Puri Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110063
(LC No. 18900000098 of Bahadurgarh Branch) Chandar Mohan Dargan (Borrower) Surman (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 2534844 /- ₹ Twenty Five lakh Thirty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Four Only NPA (09-10-2022)	Plot No. 114 -115 Ground Floor Block & Pocket - E-18 Sector 03 Rohini New Delhi Delhi - 110085
(LC No. 13000000544 of Gurugram Branch) Rajeev Narang (Borrower) Amisha Narang (Co Borrower 1) Veena Narang (Co Borrower 2)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 3280588 /- ₹ Thirty Two lakh Eighty Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Eight Only NPA (09-10-2022)	Plot No 72 A Second Floor Block D Moti Nagar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110015
(LC No. 11900001230 of Noida Branch) Purnima Dewangan (Borrower) Tek Chand Dewangan (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 3747158 /- ₹ Thirty Seven lakh Forty Seven Thousand One Hundred Fifty Eight Only NPA (08-11-2022)	Flat No-710, 7th Floor, Tower- Mercury The Allen Court, Plot No- Gh- C/31 Tronica City Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201010
(LC No. 24900000194 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Pallavi Gaur (Borrower) Devshi Chandra Gaur (Co Borrower 1) Hemu Gaur (Co Borrower 2)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 1678182 /- ₹ Sixteen lakh Seventy Eight Thousand One Hundred Eighty Five Only NPA (09-10-2022)	Part Of Property No. D-195, Third Floor Gali No- 8, Jagat Puri, Mandoli Road Shahdara, Delhi-110093 Delhi-110093 New Delhi Delhi Delhi - 110032
(LC No. 09600001119 of New Delhi-west Branch) Prashant Kumar Azad (Borrower) Deepa Azad (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 3026255 /- ₹ Thirty Three lakh Two Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five Only NPA (09-10-2022)	Property No. 1/2892 - 8, Kharsa No. 593, Rear Side Portion G.F. Ram Nagar, Shahdara Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110032
(LC No. 11900001735 of Noida Branch) Babil Bhardwaj (Borrower) Devanand (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 2008680 /- ₹ Twenty lakh Eight Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Only NPA (08-11-2022)	Plot No. 446, Second Floor Old Plot No. 3, Guru Nanak Gali, Main Road, Maujpur, Shahdara Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110053
(LC No. 24900000614 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Sudhir Kumar Mishra (Borrower) Abhishek Kumar Mishra (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 2683703 /- ₹ Twenty Six lakh Eighty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Three Only NPA (09-10-2022)	Plot No O-21, First Floor Front Portion Block D, Kharsa No 116, Vijay Vihar Village Bindapur, Uttam Nagar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110044
(LC No. 01400004220 of New Delhi Branch) Krishna Kumar Mehta (Borrower) Manju Kumar Mehta (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 7799327 /- ₹ Seventy Seven lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Seven Only NPA (08-11-2022)	Property No. Rz-15 Kharsa No. 26/10 (Near Dada Dev Hospital Hospital) Village Dabri Dabri Extn New Delhi New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110045
(LC No. 09600001352 of New Delhi-west Branch) Murji Ananda Patel (Borrower) Bhumiika Ben Patel (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 3227442 /- ₹ Thirty Two lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Forty Two Only NPA (09-10-2022)	Plot No-1/6629/6, 2nd Floor With Roof Rights, Kharsa No-1684/314, Gali No-4 Village Sikdarpur, East Rohtas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110032
(LC No. 19700043927 of Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) Sudhir Kumar (Borrower) Savitri Devi (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 3721588 /- ₹ Thirty Seven lakh Twenty One Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Eight Only NPA (14-12-2022)	Unit No-G1/1004 10th Floor, Block-G1 Plot No-11, Sector 22, Rohini New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110085
(LC No. 19600043444 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Dinesh Chander (Borrower) Anu (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 3185948 /- ₹ Thirty One lakh Eighty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Eight Only NPA (09-12-2022)	Plot No 79 & 80, First Floor Without Roof Pocket No 11, Sector 22, Rohini New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110085
(LC No. 19600043468 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Rakesh Sagar (Borrower) Neeru Sagar (Co Borrower 1) Irshad (Co Borrower 2)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 3844837 /- ₹ Thirty Eight lakh Forty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Seven Only NPA (30-10-2022)	Flat No. D 12/C Plot No D 12 Block-D Rhs First Floor Without Roof Rights Dabri Dabri Extn Zafarabad New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110032
(LC No. 13100001895 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Vikram Sharma (Borrower) Seema Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 9425715 /- ₹ Ninety Four lakh Twenty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Fifteen Only NPA (09-10-2022)	Plot No 164, Gf, Aravali Apartments Alaknanda New Delhi New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110019
(LC No. 13100001962 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Shialandra Kumar (Borrower) Puspsha Jha (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 2276120 /- ₹ Twenty Two lakh Seventy Six Thousand One Hundred Twenty Two Only NPA (08-11-2022)	Prop No F-383, First Floor Gali No. 87, Mahavir Enclave Part III Kharsa No. 111/1, Village Palam New Delhi New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110059
(LC No. 09200001934 of Rohini Branch) Jitender (Borrower) Amit Kumar (Co Borrower 1) Vijay Pal (Co Borrower 2) Seema (Guarantor 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 1879941 /- ₹ Eighteen lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Forty One Only NPA (08-11-2022)	H. No.- W-280, Entire, Gali No-6, Kh No- 620/437, Vill-Maujpur, Chander Shekhar Gali Babarpur, Shahdara Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110032
(LC No. 19000001706 of Raj Nagar Branch) Rohit Gupta (Borrower) Pooja Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 2897213 /- ₹ Twenty Eight lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Two Hundred Thirteen Only NPA (08-11-2022)	C/370/1, 2nd Floor, Kharsa No 360 Bhajanpura, Gali No. 16 Delhi New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110053
(LC No. 25400000434 of Azadpur N S P Branch) Rahul Sharma (Borrower) Asha Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 2319185 /- ₹ Twenty Two lakh Nineteen Thousand One Hundred Eighty Five Only NPA (08-11-2022)	Rz-F-907, First Fir (Middle Lhs) Kh No-50/20/2 & 21, Block F Village, Palam, Raj Nagar-2 New Delhi North West Delhi Delhi - 110077
(LC No. 19000001913 of Raj Nagar Branch) Saurabh Joshi (Borrower) Pooja Joshi (Co Borrower 1) Pradeep Dalakoti (Co Borrower 2)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 2567369 /- ₹ Twenty Five lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Nine Only NPA (09-10-2022)	Flat No-404 Third Floor Lhs Plot No-50 51, 52, 60, 70 & 71, Kh No-60, Unione, Residency, Vill. Akbarpur Behrampur, Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201001
(LC No. 28200000438 of Lajpat Nagar Branch) Parshant (Borrower) Nishant Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 2429537 /- ₹ Twenty Four lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Seven Only NPA (09-10-2022)	Property No. X/18115- 16 3rd Floor Kharia Mohalla, Roshanara Road Subzi Mandi Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110007
(LC No. 11900002909 of Noida Branch) Shaivez (Borrower) Suhail (Co Borrower 1) Naseem Fatma (Co Borrower 2) Sahiba Khan (Guarantor 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 13464672 /- ₹ One Core Thirty Four lakh Sixty Four Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Two Only NPA (29-09-2022)	Property Bearing No. A-5/8-B, Jhilmil Industrial Area, Ilaqa Shahdara, Shahdara New Delhi Delhi - 110095
(LC No. 19800042200 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Pawan Pareek (Borrower) Anju Devi (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 1577388 /- ₹ Fifteen lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Eight Only NPA (09-10-2022)	Flat No-F.F-2, Front Lhs, First Floor, Plot No-24, Ghazda Vihar, Block-D, Near- Water Tank, Hadbast Vill- Sadullabad, Ghaziabad, Up Ghaziabad New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 201010
(LC No. 01400005027 of New Delhi Branch) Prakash Chandra Ugretti (Borrower) Bhawna Ugretti (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 3728447 /- ₹ Thirty Seven lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Forty Seven Only NPA (09-10-2022)	Unit No-T171201 Tower No-T 17 12 Floor Green Park 3 Club Terrace Project Share Home Gurugram Gurugram Haryana - 122505
(LC No. 24900001867 of Delhi Janakpuri Branch) Aakash Choudhary (Borrower) Anita Devi (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 3060753 /- ₹ Thirty lakh Sixty Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Three Only NPA (30-10-2022)	Plot No-4425 Plot No-68, Kh No-373, 174 Second & Third Floor Gali No-8 Shankar Road Tri Nagar New Delhi North West Delhi Delhi - 110035
(LC No. 27300000576 of Dwarka Branch) Ranjeet Singh (Borrower) Vinita (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 2334137 /- ₹ Twenty Three lakh Thirty Four Thousand One Hundred Thirty Seven Only NPA (09-12-2022)	Prop No-B-72, 3rd Flr Front With Roof 8 Block Kh No.367 Vill- Bindapur Subhash Park Extn Uttam Nagar New Delhi Delhi - 110059
(LC No. 19600100180 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Puneet Seth (Borrower) Sangeet Seth (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 4477929 /- ₹ Forty Four lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Nine Only NPA (09-10-2022)	F032, Atlantis Raheja, Sec-31-32 Haryana - 122002
(LC No. 01400004261 of New Delhi Branch) Lakhan Singh (Borrower) Anita Malik (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 1045825 /- ₹ Ten lakh Forty Five Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Five Only NPA (09-12-2022)	Plot No. 1/6215, 3rd Floor, Street No. 4 Old Plot No. 11, Kh. No. 1253/688/343 East Rohtas Nagar, Shahdara Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110032
(LC No. 01400004280 of New Delhi Branch) Lakhan Singh (Borrower) Anita Malik (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 1618448 /- ₹ Sixteen lakh Eighteen Thousand Four Hundred Forty Eight Only NPA (09-12-2022)	Plot No. 1/6215, 3rd Floor, Street No. 4 Old Plot No. 11, Kh. No. 1253/688/343 East Rohtas Nagar, Shahdara Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110032
(LC No. 19600043137 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Mukesh (Borrower) Prem (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 1567141 /- ₹ Fifteen lakh Sixty Seven Thousand One Hundred Forty One Only NPA (09-10-2022)	H No- X/iv/2989/1C/A/16 1st Floor With Roof Kharsa No 28 Gali No 16 Ranjeet Nagar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110008
(LC No. 19600043237 of Delhi - Safdurganj Branch) Mukesh (Borrower) Prem (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 1169088 /- ₹ Eleven lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Eighty Eight Only NPA (09-10-2022)	H No- X/iv/2989/1C/A/16 1st Floor With Roof Kharsa No 28 Gali No 16 Ranjeet Nagar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi - 110008
(LC No. 13300000032 of Cannaught Place Branch) Sunil Kumar (Borrower) Meenu (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 761254 /- ₹ Seven lakh Sixty One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Four Only NPA (09-12-2022)	Plot No A-152, First Floor L H S Portion, S L F Ved Vihar Noli Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201012
(LC No. 13300000068 of Cannaught Place Branch) Anil Kumar (Borrower) Anupam (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 1135670 /- ₹ Eleven lakh Thirty Five Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Only NPA (09-10-2022)	Flat No-1002, 10th Floor Ghaziab Tower, S G Impressions-58 More Nagar, Nh-58 Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201011
(LC No. 13100000466 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Ajay Veer Singh (Borrower) Kusum Yadav (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 1206972 /- ₹ Twelve lakh Six Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Nine Only NPA (09-10-2022)	Flat No. A 30104 1st Floor Block G3 Ebony Greens Nh 24 Sare Samag Realty Pvt Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh - 201001
(LC No. 19700004561 of Gurgaon - Sohna Road Branch) Ravinder Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Hemlata Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	30-01-2023 / ₹ 1406405 /- ₹ Fourteen lakh Six Thousand Four Hundred Five Only NPA (08-11-2022)	Flat No. D 1 408 4th Floor Tower D Block D1 Delight Residency Alwar By Pass Road Bhivadi Rajasthan Alwar Rajasthan - 301019

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Date : 18-02-2023
Place: Delhi

Sd/-
(Authorised Officer)
Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

‘Budget’s focus on capex to raise pvt investment’

To push growth to 7%: RBI article

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Union Budget’s focus on capital expenditure is expected to crowd-in private investment and push the GDP growth rate close to 7 per cent in the next financial year beginning April 1, said a Reserve Bank article on ‘State of the Economy’. In 2023-24, capital expenditure is budgeted at Rs 10 lakh crore which will constitute 3.3 per cent of GDP.

“We believe that India will decouple from macroeconomic projections of current vintage and also from the rest of the world.

“In our view, the instrument of decoupling will be the Union Budget by raising India’s growth prospects over the period 2023-27; and raising India’s potential growth,” said the article ‘State of the Economy’ published in the RBI’s February 2023 Bulletin.

It further said the Union Budget’s tax, capex and fiscal consolidation proposals can



take India’s real GDP growth close to 7 per cent in 2023-24 if they are effectively implemented.

“The Union Budget 2023-24’s emphasis on capital expenditure is expected to crowd-in private investment, strengthen job creation and demand, and raise India’s potential growth,” said the article authored by a team lead by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra. The Economic Survey tabled in Parliament a day head of the Union Budget projected the GDP growth at 6.5 per cent as the base.

The central bank, however, said the views expressed in the article are of the authors and do not represent the views

of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Recalling mythologies across civilisations, the authors said the sun is depicted as riding a chariot typically drawn by four horses. This is so, for instance, for Apollo in Greece; Ra in Egypt; Sol in Rome.

In Indian mythology, however, the sun’s chariot is drawn by seven horses.

The authors said many interpretations are available as to what the horses signify - various scriptures assign them the seven colours of the rainbow; the seven vedic metres or prosodies; and the like.

The seventh horse represents dreams, aspirations and the future.

India’s forex reserves drop by \$8.32 bn to \$566.95 bn

PTI ■ MUMBAI

India’s forex reserves dropped by \$8.319 billion to \$566.948 billion for the week ended February 10, the RBI said on Friday.

This is the second consecutive week of drop in the reserves after the \$1.49-billion decrease in the previous reporting week.

It can be noted that in October 2021, the country’s forex kitty had reached an all-time high of \$645 billion. The reserves have been declining as the central bank deploys the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments.

For the week ended February 10, the foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by \$7.108 billion to \$500.587 billion, according to the Weekly Statistical Supplement released by the RBI on Friday.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

RBI issues final guidelines on interest rate risk in banking book

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Friday issued final guidelines on Interest Rate Risk in Banking Book which require banks to measure, monitor, and disclose their exposure to IRRBB that may impact the capital base and future of earnings of lenders.

IRRBB refers to the current or prospective risk to banks’ capital and earnings arising from adverse movements in interest rates that affect its banking book positions. Excessive IRRBB can pose a significant risk to banks’ current capital base and/or future earnings.

“These guidelines, accordingly, require banks to measure, monitor, and disclose their exposure to IRRBB,” the RBI said in a circular.

The final guidelines on IRRBB are in alignment with the revised framework issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS).

The RBI further said the date for implementation of the guidelines will be communicated in due course.

“Banks are advised to be in



preparedness for measuring, monitoring, and disclosing their exposure to interest rate risk in the banking book” in terms of the circular, it added.

As per the guidelines, the Board of the banks has the responsibility for understanding the nature and the level of the bank’s IRRBB exposure. The Board should approve broad business strategies as well as overall policies with respect to IRRBB.

Accordingly, the circular said the Board is responsible for ensuring that steps are taken by the bank to identify, measure, monitor and control IRRBB consistent with the approved strategies and policies.

It also said banks should have a clearly defined Board approved risk appetite statement which lays down policies and procedures for limiting and controlling IRRBB.



Sensex, Nifty snap 3-day gaining streak

As financial, IT shares decline on inflation concerns

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty snapped their three-day winning run to close down by half a per cent on Friday due to selling in financial and IT shares amid weak global market trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined by 316.94 points or 0.52 per cent to settle at 61,002.57 as 22 of its constituents ended in red. During the day, it fell 508.84 points or 0.82 per cent to a low of 60,810.67.

The broader NSE Nifty dropped by 91.65 points or 0.51 per cent to end at 17,944.20 with 33 of its stocks closing down.

Sensex gained 887 points or 1.5 per cent while Nifty rose by 265 points or 1.7 per cent in three sessions to Thursday.

“Markets traded under pressure and lost half a per cent, pressurized by weak global cues. After the initial downturn, the Nifty index tried to pare losses but continuous selling in the banking majors combined with a downtick in

the IT majors pushed the index lower,” said Ajit Mishra, VP - Technical Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Among major Sensex losers, Nestle fell the most by 3.12 per cent. IndusInd Bank, Mahindra & Mahindra, State Bank of India, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Technologies, Axis Bank, Infosys and Bharti Airtel were among the laggards.

Larsen & Toubro, UltraTech Cement, Asian Paints, NTPC and Reliance were among the gainers.

“Lack of major triggers in the domestic market is attracting global cues to dictate the market trend. The US market is facing an unfavourable combination of higher-than-expected inflation and a stronger job market.

RBI issues draft norms for G-secs lending, borrowing

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday came out with draft norms for lending and borrowing of government securities with wider participation in the securities lending market. Earlier this month, the RBI proposed introduction of securities lending and borrowing in government securities (G-secs) with an aim to facilitate wider participation in the securities lending market by providing investors an avenue to deploy idle securities and enhance portfolio returns.

“Government Securities Lending (GSL) transactions shall be undertaken for a minimum period of one day and a maximum period of ninety days,” said the draft Reserve Bank of India (Government Securities Lending) Directions, 2023. It has invited comments from banks, market participants and other interested parties by March 17, 2023.

India’s exports may rise by 3-5% this fiscal: FIEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India’s exports are expected to grow by 3-5 per cent to \$435-445 billion in this fiscal, exporters’ body FIEO said on Friday.

In 2021-22, the country’s exports touched an all-time high of \$422 billion.

Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) President A Sakthivel said that the coming months are going to be little challenging unless both global economic growth and geopolitical situation improve drastically.

“However, we will be on course to cross the previous year’s goods export target quite easily touching almost \$435-445 billion with a growth of over 3-5 per cent this fiscal,” he said in a statement.

Contracting for the second month in a row, India’s exports



dipped by 6.58 per cent to \$32.91 billion in January due to a slowdown in global demand. Cumulatively, the country’s merchandise exports during April-January 2022-23 rose 8.51 per cent to \$ 369.25 billion.

Sakthivel said that FIEO in its continuous endeavour to handhold and mentor the exporting community and thereby, promoting India’s exports is celebrating its 58th Foundation Day on February 19.

Gold falls ₹285; silver tumbles ₹620

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices declined by ₹285 to ₹55,950 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday amid weak global trends, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had settled at ₹56,235 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

Silver also tumbled ₹620 to ₹65,005 per kg.

“Spot gold prices in the Delhi markets traded at ₹55,950 per 10 grams, down ₹285 per 10 grams,” Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst - Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

In the overseas market, both gold and silver were trading lower at \$1,821 per ounce and \$21.29 per ounce, respectively.

Rupee falls 12 paise to close at 82.82 against US dollar on FII outflows

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated by 12 paise to close at 82.82 against the US currency on Friday as a stronger greenback in the overseas market and a muted trend in domestic equities weighed on investor sentiments.

FII outflows from the capital markets also hit the rupee sentiment while weak crude oil prices lent some support to the unit which posted its fourth straight week of decline.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 82.77 against the greenback and finally settled at 82.82, registering a fall of 12 paise over its previous close of 82.70.

During the session, the domestic unit witnessed an intra-day high of 82.73 and a low of 82.85 against the American dollar.



On a weekly basis, the rupee declined by 24 paise in its fourth straight week of losses against the dollar.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback’s strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.59 per cent higher at 104.47.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude futures declined 1.75 per cent to \$83.65 per barrel.

According to Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, the Indian rupee depreciated on risk-off sentiments in global markets and a strong US dollar.

Reserve price of FCI wheat cut to ₹2,150 per quintal to check prices

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Friday further reduced the reserve price of FCI wheat to ₹2,150 per quintal for bulk consumers under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) in a bid to check prices.

According to the food ministry, the reserve price of fair and average quality (FAQ) wheat has been reduced to Rs 2,150 while for Under Relaxed Specifications (URS) wheat to ₹2,125 per quintal.

These rates will be applicable till March 31, the ministry said. State-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) is offloading 25 lakh tonnes of wheat to bulk users under the OMSS.

“Reduction in reserve price will help in reducing market price of wheat and wheat products for consumers,” the ministry said.

States are allowed to purchase wheat from FCI for their own scheme at above proposed reserve prices without participating in e-auction, it added. On February 10, the ministry had done away with freight charges and kept the reserve price of FCI wheat uniformly at ₹2,350 per quintal to bulk users pan-India through e-auction.

It had also reduced the price of FCI wheat offered to institutions like Nafed, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar to ₹21.50 per kilogram from ₹23.50 per kg.

India, Russia finalise protocol on cooperation in civil aviation

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India and Russia on Friday formalised a protocol on cooperation in the civil aviation sector.

In a tweet, the civil aviation ministry shared pictures of the meeting between the delegations from India and Russia as part of the ninth session of the India-Russia Sub-Group on Cooperation in Civil Aviation.

“A delegation from Ministry of Civil Aviation lead by Secretary, CA met Russian delegation from Ministry of Transportation of the Russian Federation lead by Deputy Minister in Moscow on 17 February, 2023, and formalized a protocol on cooperation in the civil aviation sector,” the ministry said.



28, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Textiles Rajeev Saxena said, adding that “151 items now we are considering to bring under quality control order”.

However, he did not specify these identified items.

Technical Textiles can be described as textile materials

and products used primarily for their technical performance and functional properties rather than their aesthetics or decorative characteristics.

They can be classified into industrial, functional, performance, engineering, invisible and hi-tech categories.

Of \$260 billion market size globally, India’s technical textiles contribution was \$20.5 billion in 2020. Domestic exports from the technical textiles segment stood at \$2.8 billion in 2021 as compared to \$126 billion worldwide.

‘Raise GST exemption threshold to ₹1.5 crore’

Do away with state-wise reg of biz: GTRI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Goods and Services Tax Council should consider raising the GST exemption threshold to ₹1.5 crore annual turnover and also do away with the requirement of state-wise registration, which would help ease compliance, economic think tank GTRI said on Friday.

The GST network has over 1.4 crore registered taxpayers, making it the largest global platform for indirect taxes.

“The GST Council now needs to consolidate gains by making compliance easy,” the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said, while recommending seven reforms for next phase of transformational growth.

The think tank suggested increasing the GST exemption limit to ₹1.5 crore, which it feels will be a game changer for India’s MSME sector and set them on the path to job creation and growth.

Currently, registration for



GST is optional for firms with an annual turnover of less than ₹40 lakh for goods and ₹20 lakh for services.

“Firms with less than ₹1.5 crore annual turnover account for 84 per cent of total registrations but contribute less than seven per cent of the tax collected. The new limit would reduce the load on the GST system, which will deal with less than 23 lakh taxpayers in contrast to 1.4 crore now,” GTRI said.

The reduced load-on system will allow the GSTN to introduce an invoice-matching concept, resulting in 100 per cent compliance and solving the problem of fake invoices and tax theft. The increased tax collection will adequately compensate for the 7 per cent tax loss, it added.

Tata Steel completes first multi-modal shipment of TMT bars to Tripura

Kolkata: Tata Steel successfully completed the first multi-modal shipment of 960 tonnes of TMT bars from West Bengal’s Haldia Port to Tripura’s Agartala, the company said on Thursday. The entire transportation from flag-off to receiving material at the distributor’s warehouse in Agartala was completed in 17 days, it said.

“The possibility of using this route to service additional, smaller-lot regions along the river is also worth exploring. The Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route is more economical as well as environmentally more responsible,” Tata Steel Chief Group Shipping, Ranjan Sinha, said in a statement.

Earlier in 2022, the company had successfully shipped 1,800 tonnes of finished steel products from Haldia Port in West Bengal to Pandu Port in Assam using the IBP route via the Brahmaputra river, it added.

Delhi HC notice to Centre, Delhi Govt on arbitral award amount to be paid to DMRC

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court Friday issued notice to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and AAP Government to apprise it how the unpaid arbitral award, passed in favour of Reliance Infrastructure-owned Delhi Metro Express Private Limited (DAMEPL) and against Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), would

be paid.

The Centre and the Delhi Government are the two essential stakeholders in the DMRC, which informed the High Court that despite making requisite efforts, the two stakeholders have been unable to arrive at a consensus on the ways and means in which the amount payable under the award may be liquidated.

The High Court impleaded the two governments as parties in the execution proceedings filed by DAMEPL seeking recovery of the unpaid portion of the arbitration award.

The court noted the total amount of the award with interest till February 14, 2022 was ₹8009.38 crore. Out of this, a sum of ₹1678.42 crore has been paid so far by the DMRC

and ₹6330.96 crore is still due to be paid.

“Undisputedly, the two essential stakeholders in the corporation are Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs of the Union of India and Delhi Government. The ends of justice would thus warrant that the said stakeholders be placed formally on notice and invited to make submissions on the ways and means under which

the amounts payable under the arbitral award are proposed to be paid,” the court said, while listing the matter for further hearing on February 20.

In January, the DMRC had told the court it has requested the Centre and the city government for paying over ₹3,500 crore each as interest free subordinate debt for repayment of the unpaid arbitral award.

BUSINESS BRIEF

‘DREAM COMPANIES TO WORK FOR’ CONFERRED TO RITES

New Delhi: RITES Limited, the leading transport infrastructure consultancy and engineering firm, has been honoured with the ‘Dream Companies to Work For’ Award under the ‘Infrastructure’ category by Times Ascent at the World HRD Congress-2023. With RITES adopting a people-centered approach to its growth journey, the organization has achieved yet another milestone by winning this award. The award is also a testament to RITES being successful in creating a work environment to make its employees future-ready and promoting parity & purpose at the workplace.



PFC MD & CHAIRMAN GIVEN CMD LEADERSHIP AWARD

New Delhi: Ravinder Singh Dhillon, Chairman & Managing Director of Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC), a Maharatna Company and India’s leading NBFC in the power sector, was conferred with the prestigious ‘CMD Leadership Award (Maharatna)’ by Governance Now (SAB TV Group) in recognition of his stellar leadership, path-breaking energy transition initiatives, remarkable achievements and contribution to the accelerated development of the Power Sector. Under Dhillon’s leadership, PFC has increased its focus on Renewable Energy and refinancing operational assets.



POWER GRID CORP HONOURED WITH 5 AWARDS

New Delhi: Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd., a Maharatna CPSU under Ministry of Power, Govt. of India has been conferred five awards by the Governance Now at the 9th PSU Awards Ceremony held in New Delhi. The awards conferred on POWERGRID are CSR Leader of the Year Award, Environment & Sustainability Award, Nation Building Award, Research & Innovation Award and Digital PSU Award. POWERGRID, one of the largest transmission utilities of the world, has established the National Grid with its 1.74 lakh ckm of transmission lines and 271 substations with power transformation capacity of approximately 4.90 lakh MVA. Apart from high power transmission business, POWERGRID is also in the business of Telecommunication and provides Consultancy to power utilities in India & abroad. The Company has strong overseas presence in almost 23 countries.



EXPERTS FOR SOLAR PROJECTS WASTE LANDS BLUEPRINT

New Delhi: Experts in power and energy sector on Friday called for a strong framework for Solar Projects on Waste Lands and expected a White paper be prepared and circulated among the stakeholders, including the policy makers. Based on the discussions at REConIndia 2023, experts from various organizations working on Solar power challenges perceived to make Green hydrogen viable, propelling wind energy and state of Green financing in India. Speaking on the occasion, Alexander Hogeveen Rutter, Private Sector Specialist, International Solar Alliance said Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision for a cleaner, greener India is inspiring and has set the country on an ambitious path towards renewable energy. Blue Circle, a cleantech-centered professional network and creator of India’s premier EV Conference EVConIndia, hosted its flagship renewable energy conference REConIndia 2023 - Powering India’s Green Energy Vision 2030, in association with Hero Future Energies. As per the industry estimates, India require investment in excess of \$20 billion in 2023, mentioned Siddharth Anand, CEO of Blue Circle. REConIndia 2023 focused on addressing critical issues such as addressing the Solar Challenges, lack of domestic manufacturing, space scarcity, low tariffs, lukewarm response from DISCOMS & Waste Management.

VITAFOODS MAIDEN EDITION LAUNCHED

New Delhi: The maiden edition of Vitafoods India, by Informa Markets in India, India’s leading B2B events organisers, has commenced continuing till the end on 17th February 2023 at IPTO, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. More than 60 exhibitors with over 150 brands from both domestic and global markets will be present at the event.

ADITI MAINTAINS BRILLIANT RUN, LEADS WORLD NO 1 LYDIA KO BY TWO SHOTS

PTI ■ KAEK (SAUDI ARABIA)

India's Aditi Ashok continued her brilliant run as she added a 6-under 66 in the second round to move to 13-under and a two-shot lead over world No. 1 Lydia Ko in the Aramco Saudi Ladies International here on Friday. Aditi, who in the last two weeks had won in Kenya and finished third in Morocco, is leading a star-studded field at the USD 5 million event on the Ladies European Tour.

Starting on the tenth tee, Aditi was in excellent form as she found five birdies and an eagle on the back nine of the Royal Green Golf Club to score 7-under 29 on the stretch.

Getting to the front nine, Aditi, who was bogey free on the first day, bogeyed the first and sixth and was on 12-under when she holed a final birdie to move to 13-under and two clear of Lydia, who had earlier finished the day at 3-under 69 to get to 12-under and be tied second with American Lilia Vu (66).

Aditi, a four-time LET winner, who ended a long winless streak two weeks ago in Kenya, divides her time between Ladies European Tour and LPGA. She has begun the 2023 season with three events on the LET and already has a win and third place in those starts.

Focusing on a strong off-



season preparation, she has been reaping rich rewards for her work. She used the two

months between the two seasons to work and practice. Aditi said, "I think two

months off and practicing a lot compared to how much I would've practiced if I was in

season has helped with the start to the year.

"I have played here three times before, I know the golf course a little bit, and maybe that familiarity helps me feel comfortable here."

After the first day, when she shot 65, she said, "I think early on I hit a couple bad drives, but I managed to save par on those holes. I knew it was one of those days, that even if you don't hit a good shot things were working out for me today, so glad I was able to capitalise on that."

Swiss golfer Albane Valenzuela (66) was fourth, while Gabby Lopez (69) and Emily Kristine Pedersen (67) were tied fifth.

After Club World Cup, Al-Hilal turns attention back to Asia

AP ■ RIYADH

Days after losing 5-3 to Real Madrid in the final of the FIFA Club World Cup, Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal returns to its home continent to try and extend its recent dominance of the Asian Champions League in a second-round match against Shabab Al-Ahli of Dubai.

In 2019, Al-Hilal broke the eastern zone stranglehold of the tournament that had seen teams from Australia, China, South Korea and Japan winning every title but one from 2006 to 2018. The Riyadh club repeated the win in 2021, to become champion of Asia for a record fourth time.

This is still the 2022 edition as the eight teams from West Asia — the tournament is divided into two geographic zones until the final — finished the group stage last April. The delay is due to the Champions League transitioning from its traditional March-to-November calendar to a European-style August-to-May schedule in the 2023-24 season.

Leonardo Jardim led Al-Hilal to its last Asian Champions League title in November 2021 but the Portuguese coach is now in charge of opponent Shabab Al-Ahli. The former Monaco boss knows that Monday's game is going to be tough against a star-studded team.

"Al-Hilal has won the Asian title twice in three years and was preparing for that for six or seven years before that," Jardim said. "This is a team with a lot of strong foreign players but also have many of the Saudi Arabian internationals who played at the World Cup. Hilal is always a strong



contender in Asia but we have improved and are challenging at home, too."

Al-Hilal has former Manchester United striker Odion Ighalo, Peru international Andre Carrillo and Argentina's Luciano Vietto as well as 12 of Saudi Arabia's World Cup roster that made headlines at the World Cup in Qatar last year with a group-stage upset win over eventual champion Argentina.

The 18-time Saudi league champion is just one of three teams from the country in the knockout stages. Riyadh rival Al-Shabab takes on Uzbekistan's Nasaf Qarshi, and Al-Faisaly meets Foolad of Iran.

The remaining match in the round is an all-Qatar encounter as Al-Rayyan takes on Al-Duhail, coached by former Argentina international Hernan Crespo.

After Qatar's three losses out of three at the World Cup that the country hosted in November and December, it is a chance for national team stars such as Almoez Ali and Karim Boudiaf to restore international reputations.

Veteran Randhawa in Top-10 at Qatar golf, 4 Indians shoot even par

PTI ■ DOHA

Former Asian Tour No. 1, Jyoti Randhawa, was the best Indian at tied ninth in the first round of the USD2.5 million International Series Qatar at the Doha Golf Club here.

The 50-year-old Randhawa, who is planning to devote some time to playing the Seniors Tour, shot 1-under 71.

Thailand's Suradit Yongcharoenchai shot a solid opening four-under-par 68 in difficult windy conditions to take the clubhouse lead.

Among other Indians, Shiv Kapur, a two-time Hero Indian Open winner, SSP Chawrasia, Gaganjeet Bhullar and Karandeep Kochhar carded an even par 72 each and were tied 18th.

Veteran Jeev Milkha Singh (74) in tied 44th place, Rashid Khan (75) in tied 63rd, Veer



Ahlawat (76) and S Chikkarangappa (76) in tied 85th and Honey Baisoya (77) were the others in action.

Randhawa, who has cut down his playing schedule over the last few seasons, had a steady round with two birdies against one bogey despite the conditions that were easy to

score in. He birdied seventh and ninth and dropped a shot on 15th.

Kapur kept his game tight and dropped just one bogey, but also made just one birdie, even as Chawrasia had four birdies and as many bogeys, the same as Bhullar, a 10-time winner on the Tour. Kochhar had three

each of birdies and bogeys at the Doha Golf Club.

While Thai Suradit led the field, Canadian Richard T. Lee, Sangmoon Bae from Korea and Thailand's Phachara Khongwatmai came in with 69s. South Africans Charl Schwartzel and Darren Fichardt and Travis Smyth from Australia shot 70s in the third event of the season on the Asian Tour.

Australia's John Lyras and Todd Sinnott, Andy Ogletree from the United States, Randhawa, Malaysian Ben Leong, Filipino Miguel Tabuena, Thailand's Thaworn Wiratchart, Nitithorn Thippong and Gunn Charoenkul, and Saudi Arabia's Saud Alsharif all carded 71s.

The 24-year-old Suradit finished late in the day. A winner once before on the Asian Tour at the 2019 Mercuries Taiwan Masters, he made five birdies and dropped one shot.

Nagal enters semis of Chennai Open Challenger

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India's Sumit Nagal continued his good run in the Chennai Open ATP Challenger tournament, beating Jay Clarke of Great Britain 6-1 6-4 on Friday to enter the singles semifinal here.

The world no.506 won the quarterfinal in an hour and 22 minutes to set up a last four clash against American Nicolas Moreno De Alboran.

Alboran, who ousted top seed Chun-Hsin Tseng in the second round, got the better of Japan's Yasutaka Uchiyama 6-3 6-4 in one hour and 25 minutes.

The Nagal-Clarke match saw the Indian dominate the first set completely.

Serving superbly, the 25-year-old Indian kept the British



player off balance with precise hitting. He never faced a break point and landed 81 per cent of his first serves to pile the pressure on Clarke to break him thrice.

In the second game, Nagal

faced some challenge from Clarke but a single service break enabled him to grab the set and the match.

Meanwhile, Max Purcell beat the No.2 seed James Duckworth 6-4 4-6 6-4 in a

battle of Australians to set up a clash against compatriot Dane Sweeny in the semifinal.

In the doubles section, Sebastian Ofner and Nino Serdarusic shocked top seeds N Sriram Balaji and Jeevan Neduchezhiyan 4-6 7-6 10-4 in the semifinals.

India's Arjun Khade teamed up with Clarke to beat the Czech team of Petr Nouza and Andrew Paulson 7-5 4-6 10-8.

Results: Singles (Quarterfinals): Nicolas Moreno De Alboran (USA) beat Yasutaka Uchiyama (Japan) 6-3 6-4; Sumit Nagal beat Jay Clarke 6-1 6-4; Dane Sweeny (Australia) beat Arthur Cazaux (France) 6-7 7-6 6-3; Max Purcell beat James Duckworth (Australia) 6-4 4-6 6-4.

Australian Govts agree funding split for 2032 Olympics

AP ■ BRISBANE

The federal and the Queensland State Government have agreed on an almost 50-50 funding split to build or remodel venues for the 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visited the Queensland state capital Friday to make the formal announcement about a deal worth an estimated 7 billion Australian dollars (\$4.8 billion).

The federal government will create a new 17,000

indoor arena at Roma Street, the city's main public transport hub, and contribute to other stadium and venue refurbishments. The state government will be responsible for demolishing and rebuilding the Gabba, which will be the main stadium for the Olympics. The Gabba is the long-time home of cricket in Queensland state.

"This will leave a really lasting legacy for Queensland," Albanese told local radio station 4BC. "It's an investment that will produce a return with increased economic



activity, increased visitors ... Queensland is such a fantastic tourist destination and this will really showcase the state."

Federal Sport Minister Anika Wells told ABC radio it would be a 50-50 funding split. "It's an agreement between the federal government and the Queensland government about how we're going to pay for all of the infrastructure that the south-east Queensland venues will need to put on the 2032 Games," she said.

The International Olympic Committee awarded

the 2032 Games to Brisbane in July 2021 under a revamped procedure for choosing host cities in which a small group of IOC members identify and propose host cities to the board. That made Brisbane next in line after Paris and Los Angeles, giving local organizers more than a decade to prepare.

Australia has twice previously hosted the Summer Olympics, at Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in 2000. The state government of New South Wales picked up most of the costs for the 2000 Games.

Tokyo Olympic bribery trial opens; accused accepts guilt

AP ■ TOKYO

A trial looking into widespread bribery at the Tokyo Olympic organizing committee began Friday with a former head of a major ad company admitting to the charges.

Shinichi Ueno, who formerly headed ADK Holdings, quietly told the Tokyo District Court the allegations were accurate. In Japan, a trial continues even if a suspect admits guilt. Three prosecutors took turns reading their opening statement during a two-hour session.

Ueno is accused of paying

nearly 15 million yen (\$110,000) to Haruyuki Takahashi, a former executive at ad giant Dentsu, who wielded powerful influence in selecting sponsors for the 2020 Games. Ueno is among 15 people arrested in the bribery scandal.

Takahashi has long been a prominent person in sports marketing with Dentsu, the official marketing partner of the Tokyo Olympics. Dentsu has also been implicated in a scandal to bribe International Olympic Committee members who picked Tokyo back in 2013.

The sprawling scandals



around the Tokyo Olympics have badly damaged the chance of the northern city of Sapporo of landing the 2030 Winter Olympics. It was the early favorite. The IOC has now pulled Sweden into a possible bid for the 2030 Games.

Tokyo officials spent \$13 billion to hold the delayed Tokyo Games, although a Japanese government audit suggested the real price might have been twice that much.

Other trials involving Olympic bribery are expected to follow, including that of Takahashi. Takahashi is suspected of having received

about 200 million yen (\$1.5 million) in bribes from various companies.

A trial began in December of three officials formerly at clothing manufacturer Aoki Holdings. Aoki was chosen to make licensed products, including outfits for the Japanese Olympic team.

Another company embroiled in the scandal is publisher Kadokawa, where two officials have been arrested. They are accused of paying 76 million yen (\$540,000) to Takahashi. The sponsorship allowed Kadokawa to publish programs and other books

related to the Tokyo Olympics.

Sun Arrow, which produced the Olympic and Paralympic mascots named Miraitowa and Someity, is also scheduled to stand trial.

Tokyo prosecutors are also carrying out a separate investigation over bid-rigging for Olympics pre-events, and possibly the actual Games.

Senior Olympic official Yasuo Mori, Dentsu's sports division chief Koji Henmi, and two other executives at event organizing companies were arrested earlier this month on charges of violating anti-monopoly laws.



Barcelona, Man United play 2-2 thriller in Europa League

AP ■ LONDON

Barcelona and Manchester United served up a thrilling 2-2 draw in the Europa League knockout playoffs that outranked anything seen in the Champions League this week.

The former European champions traded leads in a back-and-forth second half of their first-leg game at Camp Nou on Thursday.

Barcelona struck first in the 50th minute on defender Marcos Alonso's header from a corner and levelled in the 76th when Raphinha's cross from the right wing curled into the net untouched.

United's defense was distracted by Robert Lewandowski's failed attempt to connect.

In between, Marcus Rashford showed just why Barcelona coach Xavi Hernández described him as one of the most dangerous forwards in Europe.

Rashford beat goalkeeper Marc-André ter Stegen at his near post with a shot from a tight angle in the 53rd then created United's go-ahead goal seven minutes later.

Receiving the ball at the touchline from a corner taken short, Rashford dribbled into the penalty area then fired a low cross that was flicked on by Bruno Fernandes and bounced up to ricochet into the net off defender Jules Koundé for an own goal.

"If you face number one of Spain in an away game and you are the dominant team, you can see this as positive," United manager Erik ten Hag said. United goalkeeper David de Gea preserved the lead with late saves, after ter Stegen's best saves were in the first half to keep out shots by Rashford and Wout Weghorst.

A game of 35 attempts on goal was watched by former United manager Alex Ferguson, now aged 81, in the stadium where his team won the 1999 Champions League final.

It sets up an enticing second leg at Old Trafford next Thursday with a place in the round of 16 at stake.

Barcelona has never won the second-tier European competition — never even reached the final in 52 years as the UEFA Cup then the Europa League — and its 13th attempt looks to be no easier. A game between two former Champions League finalists saw Monaco captain Axel Disasi score with a long-range shot in stoppage time to seal a 3-2 win at Bayer Leverkusen.

Juventus was held 1-1 by Nantes, after leading in the 13th on Dušan Vlahovic's goal, and seemed sure to be awarded a penalty for a handball in the fifth minute of stoppage time. Instead, after a two-minute review and consulting the pitchside screen, Portuguese referee João Pinheiro awarded Nantes a free kick for a foul by the Juventus player Bremer.

Shakhtar Donetsk's first competitive game of 2023 during the midwinter break for the Ukrainian league was a 2-1 win over Rennes in a "home" game played in neutral Warsaw.

Shakhtar's first game since selling star winger Mykhailo Mudryk to Chelsea saw his replacement on the left flank, Dmytro Kryskiv, open the scoring in the 11th minute.

Sevilla, the record six-time champion, eased to a 3-0 win over PSV Eindhoven, and Salzburg will take a 1-0 lead to Roma next week thanks to Nicolas Capaldo's header in the 88th. Coach José Mourinho's team almost leveled when Andrea Belotti's header was pushed on to the crossbar by goalkeeper Philipp Köhn.

Ajax drew 0-0 at home to Union Berlin, the surprise Bundesliga title challenger. Sporting Lisbon got a stoppage-time goal from defender Sebastian Coates to draw 1-1 with Midtjylland.

EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE

Florentina's 4-0 rout of home team Braga was the standout performance in the Europa Conference League knockout playoffs.

Forwards Luka Jovic and substitute Arthur Cabral each scored twice, and Braga had defender Vitor Tormena sent off for a late tackle on Jovic.

Five of the eight games ended in 1-0 wins for the home team: Trabzonspor over Basel, Qarabag against Gent, Ludogorets over Anderlecht, and AEK Larnaca against Dnipro-1 of Ukraine.

Lazio's goal against Cluj by Ciro Immobile came deep in first-half stoppage time after Lazio defender Patric was sent off. It was 0-0 in Norway between Bodø/Glimt and Lech Poznan.

In Moldova, Sheriff lost 1-0 to visiting Partizan of Serbia in a game played in an empty stadium, ordered by national authorities citing concern about an alleged Russian-backed plot to overthrow the government.

Shami, spinners restrict Australia to 263 despite Khawaja, Handscomb 50s

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mohammed Shami's clever variations with the semi-new and old ball were beautifully complemented by the spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin as India restricted Australia to 263 on the opening day of the second Test here on Friday.

Opener Usman Khawaja (81, 125 balls) made amends for a horrendous first-Test outing at Nagpur with an attractive knock while Peter Handscomb (72 not out, 142 balls) played with determination at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Friday, but their efforts weren't enough as the visitors were all out in 78.4 overs.

At stumps, India were 21 for no loss with Rohit Sharma (13 batting) and KL Rahul (4 batting) at the crease. Shami's (14.4-4-60-4) repertoire of deliveries was on full display as he struck with the new, semi-new and old ball, while Ashwin (21-4-57-3) and Jadeja (21-2-68-3) came up with breakthroughs



just when the opposition seemed to be gaining foothold as India took the opening day's honours.

The highlight on Friday was KL Rahul's brilliant catch at point off a powerful reverse sweep by Khawaja. That athletic effort not just broke the 59-run sixth-wicket partnership between Khawaja and Handscomb it also halted Australia's charge.

The pitch was a typical slow turner but had better carry than the Nagpur wicket and and

it did help Khawaja, as he was able to hit through the line during his knock that had 12 fours and a six.

Shami must be given credit for the way he bowled after Rohit Sharma pressed him from the other end in the first session.

Mohammed Siraj, despite going wicketless, deserves credit for softening up David Warner, who struggled during his 50-run stand with Khawaja. Two short balls -- one hitting the Australian opener on the elbow and the other flush on the helmet -- did unsettle the opener.

Shami then came wide off the crease and angled one into Warner. The line was immaculate with a fuller length and Warner could only jab at it. Ashwin then came into the act as Australia, from a comfortable 94/1, lost Marnus Labuschagne (18) and Steve Smith (0) in the space of two deliveries.

Labuschagne got an off-break that turned quite a bit and found him plumb in front, while Smith edged one to Kona Bharat, whose amazing reflexes and good technique paid rich

dividends. In the post-lunch session, Shami bowled another probing spell getting the better of Travis Head, who came in for Matt Renshaw for the second Test. Shami came closer to the stumps and bowled one which wasn't at a drivable length and

Head's thick outside edge flew to Rahul, who took a nice catch wide of second slip.

Once Alex Carey was accounted for by Ashwin, Khawaja and Handscomb forged a nice partnership. The pitch wasn't difficult to bat on

and the duo comfortably negotiated the Indian spinners between lunch and tea. In fact, Handscomb looked quite assured as he took wide foot strides to negate the slow turn and occasionally went on the back-foot to punch the

spinners on the off side. He hit nine boundaries and, perhaps, played the best knock in three completed Australian innings in the series so far.

But Australia's dream of a big stand lay shattered when Khawaja went for an ambitious

reverse sweep off Jadeja and Rahul plucked a one-handed stunner out of thin air.

Skipper Pat Cummins (33) decided to play a counter-attacking game as Handscomb accumulated runs at the other end.

CANCELLATION /DIVERSION OF DUE TO NON-INTERLOCKING WORK

In order to upgrade the infrastructure, Railways will undertake the Pre-Non-Interlocking and Non-Interlocking work in connection with doubling of Kheta Sarai-Shahganj Jn. (10.29 KM) of Barabanki-Ayodhya-Akbarpur-Zafrabad section over Lucknow Division. To execute this work suitable traffic block from 10.02.2022 to 27.02.2022 will be taken. During this period following trains will temporarily be affected as under:-

CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
Train No. & Name	Date (from the Originating Station)	
15025 Mau-Anand Vihar Terminal Express	21.02.2023	
15026 Anand Vihar Terminal-Mau Express	24.02.2023	
14017 Raxaul-Anand Vihar Terminal Express	23.02.2023	
14018 Anand Vihar Terminal-Raxaul Express	22.02.2023	
12225 Azamgarh-Delhi Jn. Kalifat Express	20, 21, 22, 24, 25 & 27.02.2023	
12226 Delhi Jn.-Azamgarh Kalifat Express	19, 20, 21, 23, 24 & 26.02.2023	
13509 Asansol-Gonda Express	21.02.2023	
13510 Gonda-Asansol Express	22.02.2023	
04651 Jaynagar-Amritsar Express	21, 24, 26 & 28.02.2023	
04652 Amritsar-Jaynagar Express	19, 22, 24 & 26.02.2023	
09465 Ahmedabad-Darbhanga Express	24.02.2023	
09466 Darbhanga-Ahmedabad Express	20.02.2023 & 27.02.2023	
15058 Anand Vihar Terminal-Gorakhpur Express	22.02.2023	
15057 Gorakhpur-Anand Vihar Terminal Express	23.02.2023	

PSPC CANCELLATION OF TRAINS		
5167/5168 Ballia-Shahganj-Ballia Express	19.02.2023 to 27.02.2023	
5171 Ballia-Shahganj Express	19.02.2023 to 27.02.2023	
5172 Shahganj-Ballia Express	20.02.2023 to 28.02.2023	

DIVERTED VIA JANGHAI-PHAPHAMAU-UNCHAHAR		
Train No. & Name	Diverted via	Date (from the Originating Station)
13307/13308 Dhanbad-Firozpur-Dhanbad Express	Via Varanasi-Janghai-Phaphamau-Unchahar-Rae Bareilly-Lucknow	18.02.2023 to 26.02.2023
13009/13010 Howrah-Yog Nagari Rishikesh Express	Via Varanasi-Janghai-Phaphamau-Unchahar-Rae Bareilly-Lucknow	18.02.2023 to 26.02.2023

DIVERTED VIA ZAFRABAD-SULTANPUR-LUCKNOW		
13238 Kota-Patna Express	Via Lucknow-Sultanpur-Zafrabad	19, 23, 24 & 26.02.2023
13483 Malda Town-Delhi Jn. Farakka Express	Via Zafrabad-Sultanpur-Lucknow	19, 21, 22, 24 & 26.02.2023
13484 Delhi Jn.-Malda Town Farakka Express	Via Lucknow-Sultanpur-Zafrabad	19, 21, 23, 24 & 26.02.2023
15636 Guwahati-Okha Exp.	Via Zafrabad-Sultanpur-Lucknow	20.02.2023
15668 Kamakhya-Gandhidham Exp.	Via Zafrabad-Sultanpur-Lucknow	22.02.2023
15934 Amritsar-New Tinsukia Express	Via Lucknow-Sultanpur-Zafrabad	24.02.2023
19321 Indore-Patna Exp.	Via Lucknow-Sultanpur-Zafrabad	18 & 25.02.2023
22103 Lokmanya Tilak(T)-Ayodhya Cantt. SF Express	Via Zafrabad-Sultanpur-Ayodhya Cantt.	20.02.2023

DIVERTED VIA BARABANKI-GONDA		
14649 Jaynagar-Amritsar Exp.	Via Chhapra-Gorakhpur-Gonda-Barabanki	19,21,24 & 26.02.23
14650 Amritsar-Jaynagar Exp.	Via Barabanki-Gonda-Gorakhpur-Chhapra	18,20,22 & 25.02.23
15715 Kishanganj-Ajmer Exp.	Via Chhapra-Gorakhpur- Gonda-Barabanki	19,21,24 & 26.02.23
15716 Ajmer-Kishanganj Exp.	Via Barabanki-Gonda-Gorakhpur-Chhapra	20, 21 & 23.02.23
19165 Ahmedabad-Darbhanga Express	Via Barabanki-Gonda-Gorakhpur-Chhapra	19, 22, 24 & 26.02.2023
19166 Darbhanga-Ahmedabad Express		20, 22, 25 & 27.02.2023

DIVERTED VIA AYODHYA JN.-MANKAPUR-GORAKHPUR		
15083 Chhapra-Farrukhabad Express	Via Chhapra-Gorakhpur-Mankapur-Ayodhya Jn.	18, 21, 22 & 25.02.2023
15084 Farrukhabad-Chhapra Express		19, 22, 23 & 26.02.2023
19053 Surat-Muzaffarpur Express	Via Chhapra-Gorakhpur-Mankapur-Ayodhya Jn.	24.02.2023
19054 Muzaffarpur-Surat Express		19 & 26.02.2023

DIVERTED VIA JAUNPUR		
11055 Lokmanya Tilak(T)-Gorakhpur Exp.	Via Jaunpur-Aunrihar-Mau-Gorakhpur	19, 20, 22, 24 & 26.02.2023
11056 Gorakhpur-Lokmanya Tilak(T) Exp.		19, 21, 22, 24 & 26.02.2023
11059 Lokmanya Tilak(T)-Chhapra Exp.	Via Jaunpur-Aunrihar-Mau-Chhapra	18, 21, 23, & 25.02.2023
11060 Chhapra-Lokmanya Tilak(T) Exp.		20, 23, 25 & 27.02.2023
19045 Surat-Chhapra Express	Via Jaunpur-Aunrihar-Mau-Chhapra	19, 20, 22, 23, 24 & 26.02.2023
19046 Chhapra-Surat Express		19, 21, 22, 24, 25 & 26.02.2023

For any kind of information such as arrival/departure timings and stoppages enroute, the passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

Visit RailMadad website	www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in	Download RailMadad app.
-------------------------	--	-------------------------

RailMadad Helpline No. 139		Please join us on	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram	YouTube	WhatsApp	Telegram	LinkedIn	Google Plus
----------------------------	--	-------------------	----------	---------	-----------	---------	----------	----------	----------	-------------

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience-Our Concern

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

530/2023

हरियाणा सरकार

सत्यमेव जयते

G20 INDIA

आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

ॐ त्र्यम्बकं यजामहे
सुमर्त्यिं पुष्टिवर्धनम् ।
उर्वारुकमिव बभूवुः
मृत्योर्मुक्षीय मामृतात् ॥

महाशिवरात्रि

के पावन पर्व पर

हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

शनिवार, 18 फरवरी, 2023

“महाशिवरात्रि के पावन-पुनीत अवसर पर आप सभी को मंगलकामनाएं।
देवों के देव महादेव सबका कल्याण करें।
ओम नमः शिवाय।”
- नरेन्द्र मोदी

सूचना, लोक संपर्क, भाषा तथा संस्कृति विभाग, हरियाणा

www.prharyana.gov.in

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, WhatsApp, Telegram, LinkedIn, Google Plus

@diprharyana